

Market in Wuhan – further evidence indicating that the virus was spreading from person-to-person – but PRC authorities would not admit to this fact until January 20.<sup>999</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: LEVEL-ONE EMERGENCY DECLARED INTERNALLY, PUBLIC TOLD RISK IS LOW**

On January 15, in response to the NHC national teleconference, the CCDCP in Beijing declared the highest-level emergency response (Level One) and initiated related response measures. It assigned top public health officials to 14 working groups tasked with obtaining funds, training health workers, collecting data, conducting field investigations and supervising laboratories, according to an internal CCDCP notice obtained by the Associated Press.<sup>1000</sup> Xi Jinping was likely involved in the decision to declare a level-one emergency response, as he later cited this decision as an example of his leadership in the epidemic response.<sup>1001</sup> On the same day that the CCDCP mobilized an emergency response internally, Li Qun, the head of the CCDCP's emergency response center, told an evening news program on state-run CCTV: "We have reached the latest understanding that the risk of sustained human-to-human transmission is low."<sup>1002</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: NHC ISSUES CASE DEFINITION THAT COMPLICATES CONFIRMATION OF NEW CASES**

On January 15, the NHC issued its first case definition for the novel coronavirus to guide medical professionals and local officials in their diagnosis and reporting of cases. The criteria were unusually complex, narrowly defined, and seemingly designed to exclude all but the most severe cases that had clear epidemiological links to Wuhan. For example, to meet the initial guidelines for a "clinical diagnosis," a patient must have had direct exposure to a Wuhan wet market, or at least travelled to Wuhan, within two weeks of the onset of illness. In addition, the patient must have displayed all of the following four clinical conditions: 1) fever, 2) pneumonia confirmed by chest radiograph, 3) reduced or normal white blood cell count, or reduced lymphocyte count during the early stage of the illness, and 4) a lack of significant symptomatic improvement or deterioration after three days of undergoing standard antibiotic treatments. Finally, to qualify as a fully "confirmed case," all of the above criteria for clinical diagnosis must have been met as well as the criterion of laboratory testing of respiratory specimens (whole genome sequencing) showing high homology with the novel coronavirus.<sup>1003</sup>

Considering the fact that PCR testing for the novel coronavirus had been developed by this time and was already in use in China,<sup>1004</sup> it is curious that the NHC initially required the much more laborious standard of full genome sequencing to confirm a case rather than a positive PCR test. It is possible that full genome sequencing may have been the earliest standard imposed by health authorities starting in late December. One team of researchers searched without success to find the earliest case definition that was in use prior to January 15.<sup>1005</sup> On January 18, the NHC issued what would become the first of six revisions to the case definition it would make over the course of a month and a half, and added PCR testing as a means of confirming a case.<sup>1006</sup>

PCR tests were reportedly in extremely short supply throughout January, and yet hospitals in Wuhan were said to be denying admission to patients without a positive test result. Moreover, the NHC and CCDCP authorized the use of test kits made by only three relatively unknown Shanghai companies that the Associated Press later discovered had paid senior CCDCP officials for the distribution rights in what may have been a case of corruption.<sup>1007</sup> While the authorized tests frequently produced false negatives or inconclusive results, the CCDCP and the NHC reportedly tried to prevent scientists and other companies from testing for the virus using kits that they had independently produced.

In another departure from past practice during at least two previous epidemics, the NHC told Wuhan hospitals to send virus samples to central labs under its authority, which, among other things, hampered the independent development of PCR tests.<sup>1008</sup> It appears that only four state-run laboratories were authorized to confirm an infection during this time period: the CCDCP, the WIV, the PLA AMMS, and the Chinese Academy of Medical Science.<sup>1009</sup> It is likely that such controls on which institutions could confirm a case and develop PCR testing contributed to not a single new case being reported by PRC authorities between January 5 and 17, even though retrospective infection data shows that at least hundreds were infected during this time.<sup>1010</sup>

#### **JANUARY 2020: JAPAN POINTS TO VIRUS TRANSMISSIBILITY WHILE WUHAN DENIES IT**

On January 15, the same day that Japan's Health Ministry told the world that the first patient in Japan likely contracted the coronavirus from an infected person in China,<sup>1011</sup> the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission began to sing a slightly different tune. The commission issued the following statement: "Existing survey results show that clear

human-to-human evidence has not been found, and the possibility of limited human-to-human transmission cannot be ruled out, but the risk of continued human-to-human transmission is low.” On January 16, the commission put out a statement that once again discounted the possibility of human-to-human transmission, repeating verbatim the denial of January 14: “Among the close contacts [of patients diagnosed with the novel coronavirus], no related cases were found.”<sup>1012</sup> On January 17, the commission issued its daily update with yet another denial of transmissibility: “A total of 763 close contacts have been tracked, 665 medical observations have been lifted, and 98 people are still receiving medical observations. Among the close contacts, no related cases were found.”<sup>1013</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: BEIJING CONTINUES REFRAIN THAT VIRUS IS “PREVENTABLE AND CONTROLLABLE”**

On January 18, the CCDCP issued statements on its official website and social media accounts warning the public against paying heed to “rumors,” reiterating that the outbreak was “preventable and controllable,” denying that cases at hospitals outside of Wuhan had been concealed, and insisting (incorrectly) that no cases of the disease had appeared in hospitals outside of Wuhan.<sup>1014</sup> Such misleading statements were made three days after the CCDCP declared internally that a level-one emergency was underway. On January 19, officials at the NHC continued to tell the public that the virus was “preventable and controllable,”<sup>1015</sup> a refrain that they had repeated ad nauseam since the initial announcement of the outbreak in Wuhan on December 31.

This statement was made five days after NHC Minister Ma Xiaowei told NHC officials in a confidential setting that they faced “the most severe challenge since SARS,” and just one day before the authorities belatedly admitted to person-to-person spread. The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission explained the prolonged denial of person-to-person transmission by citing the hundreds of people who apparently came into close contact with diagnosed patients who did not fall ill,<sup>1016</sup> but Dr. Zhang Jixian reported clear clinical evidence that asymptomatic infection was occurring within family clusters to the same commission as early as December 27. PRC officials continued to repeat the factually incorrect talking point that the virus was “preventable and controllable” even after person-to-person transmissibility was officially acknowledged. The PRC ambassador to Britain, for example, told BBC News on February 8 that COVID-19 “is controllable, is preventable, is curable.”<sup>1017</sup>



**JANUARY 2020: MASSIVE BANQUET HELD IN WUHAN WHILE OUTBREAK RAGES**

On January 18, officials in Jiang'an District of Wuhan allowed a massive Lunar New Year banquet to go forward in the community of Baibuting without warning residents of the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus. An estimated 40,000 families participated in the dinner celebration.<sup>1018</sup> This event was held just two days before the central authorities would finally admit to person-to-person transmission and less than five days before the entire city would be placed under the strictest lockdown the world had ever seen. Nearly a month after the event was held, local officials steadfastly refused to release figures of confirmed or suspected cases of the novel coronavirus infections in the Baibuting area, leaving residents in the dark about the severity of the outbreak in their community.<sup>1019</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: XI JINPING ISSUES EPIDEMIC RESPONSE ORDER**

On January 20, Xi Jinping issued a written order detailing how officials nationwide should respond to the novel coronavirus epidemic. This action was not reported at the time, and the details of this order have never been published. We know of this order because Xi himself mentioned it during a speech on February 3, which itself was not reported until February 15. Xi reportedly said the following to the Politburo Standing Committee on February 3: "On January 20, I issued special written instructions on epidemic prevention and control work, pointing out that [officials] must place a high degree of importance on the epidemic and do their utmost to complete prevention and control work, and requiring party committees, governments, and relevant departments at every level to place top priority on the people's health and safety, adopt practical and effective measures, and resolutely contain the spread of the epidemic."<sup>1020</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: BELATED ADMISSION OF PERSON-TO-PERSON SPREAD, DOCTORS/NURSES INFECTED**

On January 20 at 11:17 PM local time, the official Xinhua News Agency ran an interview with Dr. Zhong Nanshan in which he became the first PRC official to acknowledge that SARS-CoV-2 was infectious and spreading between people, confirming two cases of individuals in Guangzhou municipality in southern China who had not travelled to Wuhan, but had been infected by family members who had visited Wuhan. Zhong also acknowledged for the first time that infections among medical personnel had occurred.<sup>1021</sup> Zhong is an octogenarian respiratory disease specialist who became a



household name in China during the SARS epidemic and came out of retirement to advise the NHC on its response to COVID-19.<sup>1022</sup> With the genomic sequence released on January 11, and PCR testing being developed rapidly by many countries, it was likely clear to the NHC that continued denial of human-to-human transmission would become unsustainable once other countries began to test on a scale large enough to demonstrate that the virus was clearly transmitting very efficiently between people.

Despite the belated admission of person-to-person transmission, Zhong continued to maintain other falsities with their genesis in late December. He downplayed the severity of the situation, calling it a “localized outbreak” in Wuhan, and made no mention of asymptomatic spread.<sup>1023</sup> Zhong “expressed confidence” that the outbreak could be controlled, and suggested that the new coronavirus was not as dangerous as SARS-CoV-1 when, in fact, it was much more transmissible: “I do not believe this virus will cause the social impact and economic losses as SARS did 17 years ago.”<sup>1024</sup> The truth was cases were being confirmed elsewhere in China and in neighboring countries. Wuhan’s hospitals were already overwhelmed with patients, and the authorities would impose a lockdown on the city just three days later, the likes of which were never seen during SARS in Wuhan or anywhere else in China.

Zhong’s sugarcoating of the situation in public comments did not reflect the government’s internal discussions, as documented in the discussion above of the national teleconference held by NHC Minister Ma Xiaowei on January 14.<sup>1025</sup> Zhong also continued to imply that the virus originated at the seafood market in Wuhan.<sup>1026</sup> In a separate interview with CCTV on January 20, Zhong said the source of the coronavirus was “basically unclear,” but claimed that various epidemiological investigations suggested that it spilled over from wild animals.<sup>1027</sup> The fact was a significant minority of the earliest documented cases had no link at all to the market,<sup>1028</sup> suggesting from the very beginning that human-to-human transmission was occurring (including between the earliest acknowledged patient and his spouse) and that the market was most likely a site of amplification rather than the site of spillover, according to epidemiologists consulted by Senator Rubio’s staff.

The belated admission of person-to-person spread occurred on the same day that Xi Jinping issued “special written instructions” on the epidemic response, and given what is known about Xi’s penchant for micromanagement and his own claims about

personally issuing the order to lock down Wuhan, the common timing suggests that Xi personally made the decision to disclose the fact of person-to-person transmission, which would soon become apparent to the rest of the world. Earlier in the day on January 20, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission had released its daily report in which it once again declared that “no related cases were found among the close contacts.”<sup>1029</sup> Less than three full days later, a city with a government that had repeatedly told its residents that there were no cases of person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus would implement a strict lockdown because its medical system was in crisis.

**JANUARY 2020: WIV PAPER OMITTS RELEVANT FACTS ABOUT SARS-COV-2 RELATIVE “RaTG13”**

On January 20, the same day that the PRC authorities belatedly acknowledged that the novel coronavirus was spreading from person-to-person, Shi Zhengli’s research team at the WIV submitted for review their first paper on SARS-CoV-2, titled “A Pneumonia Outbreak Associated with a New Coronavirus of Probable Bat Origin,” which the prestigious journal *Nature* published online on February 3.<sup>1030</sup> Shi and her colleagues reported assembling a full genome sequence of the novel coronavirus, and noted a 79.6 percent match between SARS-CoV-2 and the coronavirus that caused the SARS epidemic in 2002 to 2003. They further confirmed that SARS-CoV-2 uses the same cell entry receptor—angiotensin converting enzyme II (ACE2)—as SARS-CoV-1.<sup>1031</sup>

It was another finding in Shi’s paper that would soon raise eyebrows and call into question whether the WIV was sharing everything that it knew about the novel coronavirus. Shi’s team referenced a match between part of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the genome of another bat coronavirus that they called RaTG13. Shi’s team claimed: “We then found that a short region of RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) from a bat coronavirus (BatCoV RaTG13)—which was previously detected in *Rhinolophus affinis* from Yunnan province—showed high sequence identity to 2019-nCoV.”<sup>1032</sup> Surprisingly for a scientific paper, no citation was given to support or further explain this important claim.<sup>1033</sup> Full-length sequencing of RaTG13 found an overall 96.2 percent genome match to SARS-CoV-2, according to Shi’s team.<sup>1034</sup>

The peculiarities did not stop with a missing citation. The WIV failed to disclose that RaTG13, which it claimed to be the closest known relative of SARS-CoV-2, was not a newly discovered virus, but rather a virus called BtCoV/4991, which had been in the

lab's possession since 2013. The WIV published research on BtCoV/4991 in 2016 and sequenced its full genome in 2018.<sup>1035</sup> Why did Shi and her colleagues neglect to inform their readers that the newly renamed RaTG13 was actually BtCoV/4991? How often do senior scientists like Shi, whose funding depends in part on recognition of their publishing records, forget to remind readers of their previously published papers that are directly relevant to their newest work? Are we to believe that Shi simply forgot about her 2016 paper or failed to appreciate its relevance? Why did Shi's team also leave out other important details, such as the name and exact location of the mine where the sample from bats had been collected in 2013? Why wouldn't Shi mention that RaTG13 was sampled from the same mine where three people had died of a respiratory illness of unexplained origin?<sup>1036</sup> Was this sloppy science or obfuscation?

Some scientists found the missing information puzzling. "I would expect people to be as clear as they can be about the history of the isolates of their sequencing," Professor Wendy Barclay, head of Imperial College London's infectious disease department, told the Sunday Times, "Most of us would have reported the entire history of the isolate, [back] to where all that came from, at the time."<sup>1037</sup> Nikolai Petrovsky, a senior virologist at Flinders University in Australia, said it was "simply not credible" that the WIV would have failed to conduct further analysis on RaTG13 (BtCoV/4991) given the fact that the virus could have been linked to the deaths of three individuals; identifying pathogens of pandemic potential before an outbreak occurs was, after all, the *raison d'être* for Shi's extensive work in pathogen discovery.<sup>1038</sup>

Peter Daszak of the EcoHealth Alliance, a longtime WIV collaborator who resorted to a variety of shenanigans to squelch discussion of the lab leak theory once the pandemic began,<sup>1039</sup> gave at least three interviews in which he claimed that the WIV had not fully sequenced the sample until January 2020 when its similarity to SARS-CoV-2 was noticed and it was pulled out of a freezer for closer examination. Daszak told Wired in February 2020, "At the time [it was originally collected], we were looking for Sars-related viruses, and this one was 20 percent different. We thought it's interesting, but not high-risk. So we didn't do anything about it and put it in the freezer."<sup>1040</sup> He repeated the same story to the New York Times Magazine in April.<sup>1041</sup> In July, Daszak told the Sunday Times that there was no significance in the renaming (and the failure to disclose the renaming) and called those who raised questions about the matter "the conspiracy folks."<sup>1042</sup>



Daszak further claimed that the WIV's sole sample of RaTG13 was depleted during the January 2020 sequencing process, rendering further analysis impossible.<sup>1043</sup> But Daszak's claimed timeline did not comport with the facts. When the WIV finally uploaded the raw data underlying the RaTG13 genome sequence to the GenBank database in May 2020, its date stamps revealed that its various parts had been sequenced in 2017 and 2018, which one molecular biologist remarked "makes it all the more puzzling that the WIV scientists first fixated on the underwhelming 79.6 percent similarity to a SARS virus, rather than the whopping 96.2 percent similarity to a complete bat virus genome that was already in their database."<sup>1044</sup> While Shi Zhengli eventually admitted in July 2020 that her group had, in fact, sequenced the full genome of RaTG13 in 2018, she still denied that her team had ever isolated or cultured the virus,<sup>1045</sup> and she has never explained why neither the fact of RaTG13's earlier sequencing, nor its possible links to the deaths in the Mojiang mine in 2013, were not noted in the Nature paper.

The fact that RaTG13 was simply an alias for BtCoV/4991 may have never been uncovered were it not for the investigative efforts of a microbiologist in Austria and a science-minded Internet sleuth in India.<sup>1046</sup> Two others who played an important role in unraveling the mystery of RaTG13, molecular biologist Alina Chan and science writer Matt Ridley, are worth quoting here at length to underscore the oddity of this whole episode:

To summarise, an outbreak of mysterious pneumonia in a copper mine, more than 1,800 kilometres by road from Wuhan, led to patient samples being sent to Wuhan for analysis. A 2013 medical thesis concluded, after incorporating results shared by the WIV, that these miners had likely been infected by a SARS-like coronavirus from bats in the mine. An expedition by Wuhan virologists to seek the viral cause brought back hundreds of samples from bats. Their repeated visits to the mine turned up a bat-borne coronavirus in 2013, which was recognised to be a novel SARS-like coronavirus. The WIV team partly sequenced this new virus in 2017 and then fully sequenced it in 2018. When its sequence was found to closely match the sequence of the virus causing Covid-19, the Wuhan scientists published it under a new name and failed to cite their own paper detailing its discovery or to reveal that they had been studying the virus over the past few years

or to mention that it had come from a mine where there had been a fatal outbreak of pneumonia.<sup>1047</sup>

#### JANUARY 2020: THE WHO VISITS WUHAN

On January 20-21, a delegation from the WHO conducted what they called a “field visit” to Wuhan just two days before Xi Jinping placed the city under strict lockdown. The delegation was allowed to visit the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, Zhongnan Hospital, and the Hubei Provincial CDCP, including its BSL-3 laboratory.<sup>1048</sup> It does not appear that the origin of SARS-CoV-2 was a topic of inquiry. There is no public record suggesting that the delegation visited the WIV or the Huanan Seafood Market. The delegation focused instead on the public health response, including discussions regarding “active surveillance processes, temperature screening at the airport, laboratory facilities, infection prevention and control measures at the hospital and its associated fever clinics, and the deployment of the rRT-PCR test kit to detect the virus.”<sup>1049</sup>

In its public readout of the visit released on January 22, the WHO was laudatory of Beijing’s response to the outbreak and closely echoed Beijing’s severely understated talking points as articulated by Zhong Nanshan on January 20. The WHO simply told the world: “Data collected through detailed epidemiological investigation and through the deployment of the new test kit nationally suggests that human-to-human transmission is taking place in Wuhan. More analysis of the epidemiological data is needed to understand the full extent of human-to-human transmission.”<sup>1050</sup>

#### JANUARY 2020: XI JINPING ORDERS TOTAL LOCKDOWN OF WUHAN AND HUBEI

On January 22, just two days after Beijing admitted that person-to-person transmission of the virus was occurring, Xi Jinping ordered a lockdown of Wuhan in order to “comprehensively and strictly control the outflow of people” from Hubei Province.<sup>1051</sup> At 2:00 AM local time on January 23, the Wuhan Municipal People’s Government sent out text messages to smartphones around the city announcing that the airport, train, and bus stations would be closed by 10:00 AM.<sup>1052</sup> The entire city of Wuhan was placed under a lockdown by the end of the day that was unprecedented in its strictness and scope, and expanded to the entire province within days. The restrictions were not lifted until April 8.<sup>1053</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: BEIJING ISSUES SECOND EDITION OF LABORATORY SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR NEW VIRUS**

On January 23, the same day that the lockdown began in Wuhan and only three days after the central authorities admitted to person-to-person transmission, the NHC issued the second edition of a nationwide directive titled “Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for the Novel Coronavirus.”<sup>1054</sup> While the text of the second edition is available online, the text of the first edition is not. In fact, no public references to the directive exist prior to January 23. This absence suggests that the original may have had a more limited distribution and was likely issued before the authorities publicly acknowledged the causative agent of the pneumonia outbreak was a coronavirus on January 9.

Whatever the reason may be for the missing first edition, the second edition clearly shows that the central authorities were concerned about coronavirus infections occurring as a result of researchers around the country working with samples in laboratory settings. Beijing’s awareness of the biosafety risks posed by this virus stands in stark contrast to the vehement denials that a laboratory acquired infection could be a plausible explanation for how the outbreak began – the position that PRC authorities (and others) have regularly taken in international settings since February 2020.

The NHC described the purpose of the guidelines thusly: “In order to ensure laboratory biosafety during the period of prevention and control work for the pneumonia caused by novel coronavirus infection, the National Health Commission organized the formulation of laboratory biosafety guidelines for the novel coronavirus to direct localities to standardize experimental activities related to the novel coronavirus.”<sup>1055</sup> The directive focused first and foremost on the risks associated with virus cultivation, requiring laboratories to seek authorization from NHC before carrying out projects involving virus cultivation:

Virus cultivation...refers to operations such as virus isolation, culture, titration, neutralization testing, purification of live viruses and their proteins, freeze-drying of viruses, and recombination experiments to produce live viruses. The above operations should be carried out in a Biosafety Level-3 laboratory. Use virus culture to extract nucleic acid. The addition of a lysing agent or an inactivating agent must be carried out under the same laboratory biosafety level and protective conditions as virus cultivation.... Before a laboratory carries out related activities,



it shall seek the approval of the National Health Commission and obtain the credentials to carry out the corresponding activities.<sup>1056</sup>

The directive further stipulated that all experiments involving “infecting animals with live viruses, sampling infected animals, processing and testing infectious samples, specialized surveys of infected animals, and the handling of infected animal excrement,” must also be conducted in a Biosafety Level-3 laboratory, and like virus cultivation, pre-authorization and credentialization from the NHC were required.<sup>1057</sup> Official concern even extended to lab activities involving uncultured infectious materials and inactivated materials, such as virus antigen detection, serological detection, nucleic acid extraction, biochemical analysis, and the inactivation of clinical samples. Although the guidelines permitted these activities in a BSL-2 setting, it required personnel to use the PPE required for a BSL-3 lab when working with uncultured infectious materials. Only operations that do not involve pathogenic live viruses, such as molecular cloning, could be performed in a BSL-1 laboratory.<sup>1058</sup>

Two provisions focused on the safe transport of virus samples and the safe management of virus strains and samples. The specter of a lab leak was raised as a specific risk to guard against. “Strains and related samples of the novel coronavirus should be managed by dedicated personnel,” the guidelines stressed, “The source, type, quantity, and registration number of the strains and samples should be accurately recorded, and effective measures should be taken to ensure the safety and security of the strains and samples. Strictly prevent misuse, malicious use, theft, robbery, loss, leakage, and other incidents.”<sup>1059</sup>

The concern about such biosafety incidents was serious enough to warrant a standalone section in the guidelines on “Handling Laboratory Biosafety Operational Errors and Accidents.”<sup>1060</sup> This section provided instructions of a high degree of specificity, suggesting that perhaps they were derived from direct experience. For example, officials were told: “[I]f a strain of the novel coronavirus or other potentially infectious material contaminates the operating table of the biosafety cabinet causing limited contamination: use a disinfectant with an effective chlorine content of 0.55%. The disinfectant needs to be available, ready to use, and applied within 24 hours.”<sup>1061</sup> The guidelines further added: “To clean up contaminants, strictly abide by the biosafety operation requirements for

live viruses, use steam pressure sterilization to treat [the area], and conduct laboratory ventilation, etc., to prevent secondary hazards.”<sup>1062</sup>

The guidelines addressed in detail what to do if a vessel containing a live virus, such as a test tube or vial, was broken or otherwise leaked or spilled:

If a container holding a virus culture is broken or overturned causing a laboratory contamination: seal off the laboratory space to avoid the spread of contaminants and use towels with 0.55% effective chlorine disinfectant to cover the contaminated area. When necessary (if there is a large spill), the laboratory can be heated and fumigated with peracetic acid, the dosage is 2g/m<sup>3</sup>, and it should be fumigated overnight; or 20g/L of peracetic acid disinfectant can be sprayed with an aerosol sprayer, the dosage is 8ml/m<sup>3</sup>, and it takes effect within one to two hours; if necessary, use potassium permanganate-formaldehyde fumigation: potassium permanganate should be 8g/m<sup>3</sup>, place it inside a heat-resistant and corrosion-resistant container (ceramic jar or glass container), then add 10ml/m<sup>3</sup> of formaldehyde (40%) and fumigate for four hours or longer. The indoor humidity should be 60%-80% during fumigation.<sup>1063</sup>

The proper management of hazardous waste was another major theme of concern. The guidelines started with the basics: 1) labs working on SARS-CoV-2 must put in place rules for waste disposal and operational procedures for waste and sewage treatment, 2) all hazardous waste must be properly labeled and kept in standardized containers, 3) only appropriately trained personnel using the appropriate PPE should handle hazardous waste, and 4) the safe disposal of infectious waste requires understanding the different classifications of biosafety waste and implementing the proper corresponding disposal procedure.<sup>1064</sup>

The guidelines then gave detailed instructions on the differences between handling liquid waste versus solid waste. First, they distinguished between ordinary sewage and liquid infectious waste. The former is produced by equipment such as handwashing pools and can be discharged into the laboratory water treatment system, but only after “the treatment reaches the standard.”<sup>1065</sup> The latter consists of wastewater generated during the course of experiments, which must be treated by chemical or physical disinfection. Lab workers were told to verify that disinfection has completely occurred before final disposal. “The staff shall dispose of waste promptly and must not take waste

materials out of the laboratory zone,” the guidelines warned.<sup>1066</sup> The treatment of solid waste received considerably more attention than liquid waste:

1. Solid waste should be collected separately according to classification, and the solid waste collection container should have the properties of being unbreakable, leak-proof, moisture-resistant, heat-resistant, and sealable. Infectious waste in the laboratory is not allowed to be accumulated and stored, and it should be sterilized by pressure steam in a timely manner. Before disposal, waste should be stored in a designated and secured space in the laboratory.<sup>1067</sup>
2. Small types of solid waste, such as tissue specimens, consumables, personal protective equipment, etc., shall be subjected without exception to pressure steam sterilization treatment, and then removed from the laboratory along the waste channel.<sup>1068</sup>
3. Bulky solid waste, such as HEPA filters, shall be sterilized in situ by professional personnel, and then placed into secured containers for sterilization. Items that cannot be autoclaved, such as electronic equipment, can be fumigated with an ethylene oxide treatment.<sup>1069</sup>
4. The solid waste removed from the laboratory after disinfection and sterilization treatments should be collectively handed over to the solid waste treatment work unit for disposal.<sup>1070</sup>
5. Sharp instruments used during experiments (including needles, knives, metal and glass, etc.) should be directly discarded in a box specifically for sharp instruments, and after they are treated in the autoclave, then finish with the standard disposal.<sup>1071</sup>
6. Establish waste treatment records: regularly inspect the laboratory exhaust HEPA filters for leaks and replace them when needed, regularly monitor and test the treated sewage, and use biological indicators to monitor and test the effectiveness of pressure steam sterilization.<sup>1072</sup>



The issues that these guidelines sought to address corresponded closely to problems that were observed at the WIV in 2018-2019: everything from questions about the proper BSL level for working with live pathogens and when conducting animal challenge experiments to concerns about hazardous waste management and preventing leaks that occur when virus samples are stored or transported improperly. Some of the language contained in the guidelines, such as the injunction to "strictly prevent the misuse, malicious use, theft, robbery, loss, leakage, and other incidents" of viral samples, is similar to WIV reporting about the risk of "operational errors" in November 2019.<sup>1073</sup> The proper storage of viral strains and the correct management of waste from animal experiments were likewise key themes at a mandatory three-day biosafety training held at the WIV in late November 2019, which was administered by senior officials dispatched from Beijing.<sup>1074</sup>

Readers will recall that the WIV's new campus at Zhengdian Park, which houses its BSL-4 facility, had to hire a contractor for a major renovation of its hazardous waste management system in July 2019.<sup>1075</sup> The focus of the guidelines on the proper handling of infectious and hazardous materials and the need for better record keeping with regard to waste treatment provides a detailed treatment of themes touched on more generally at a biosafety meeting held at the WIV on January 3, 2020.<sup>1076</sup> Finally, it is important to note that Shi Zhengli and her team at the WIV conducted much of their work with SARS-like coronaviruses in BSL-2 laboratories rather than at the BSL-3 level required by these guidelines,<sup>1077</sup> a fact which may account for the guidelines' emphasis on restricting work with SARS-CoV-2 to BSL-3 facilities.

#### JANUARY 2020: HONG KONG, **NOT BEIJING**, FIRST TO CONFIRM ASYMPTOMATIC SPREAD

On January 24, a team of doctors and researchers from Hong Kong published a piece in the *Lancet* that documented for the first time that SARS-CoV-2 was spreading asymptotically.<sup>1078</sup> The team was able to draw this conclusion based on their observation and treatment of a family of six patients, starting on January 10, who had travelled to Wuhan between December 29 and January 4. Five of the six family members tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection, including one 10-year-old child who was asymptomatic, but displayed radiological ground-glass lung opacities. None of the family members had contact with any markets or animals while in Wuhan, though two visited a hospital.<sup>1079</sup>

Despite this evidence, PRC authorities continued to discount asymptomatic transmission, and Beijing's resistance to acknowledging the role played by asymptomatic transmission was, with great consequence, echoed elsewhere as other countries began to confront the pandemic.<sup>1080</sup> One recent study estimated that more than one-third of SARS-CoV-2 infections are asymptomatic, and when pre-symptomatic cases are included, silent infections rise to as much as 42.8 percent of all infections.<sup>1081</sup> Another recent comparison of household studies confirmed that individuals with asymptomatic infections transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to close contacts, although to a somewhat lesser extent than those with symptomatic infections.<sup>1082</sup>

#### JANUARY 2020: STUDY SHOWS 34 PERCENT OF DECEMBER CASES HAD NO EXPOSURE TO THE MARKET

On January 24, a team of 29 Chinese researchers published an epidemiological study in the *Lancet* that examined a sample of 41 hospital patients admitted in Wuhan in December that had been identified as having laboratory-confirmed infection with SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1083</sup> Their findings were significant for a number of reasons, but most importantly for the origins question, the team's data did not support the thesis that the market was the original spillover site and showed that person-to-person transmission was almost certainly occurring from the beginning because three of the four earliest cases in their sample could not be linked to the market.

The earliest known case in their sample to develop symptoms did so on December 1, and that patient had no link to the market. Moreover, no epidemiological link was established between the first patient and later cases. On December 10, three more cases were identified, two of which also had no connection to the market.<sup>1084</sup> A total of 41 patients were included in this study, but 14 of the 41 (34 percent), including three of the four earliest cases, had no direct exposure to the Huanan Seafood Market.<sup>1085</sup> Another clear sign of person-to-person transmission was the fact that the spouse of the first fatal case, who had no known history of exposure to the market, also developed pneumonia and was hospitalized.<sup>1086</sup>

#### JANUARY 2020: XI JINPING CHAIRS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING, DEPLOYS INTERNET CENSORS

On January 25, Xi Jinping chaired a meeting of the Politburo Standing Committee that focused on combatting the novel coronavirus outbreak. Xinhua claimed that several such

meetings had preceded this one, though only one has ever been reported and it had not been at the time of the publication of the Xinhua report. “The meeting,” Xinhua wrote, “emphasized that since the recent pneumonia outbreak [caused by] successive infections of a novel coronavirus in Wuhan Municipality, Hubei Province, and other areas, General Secretary Xi Jinping has placed great importance [on this matter] all along, held numerous meetings, listened to numerous reports, and issued important instructions....”<sup>1087</sup>

Xi’s concerns were much more expansive than just the public health response. Maintaining the “overall stability of society”<sup>1088</sup> and shoring up support for Xi’s leadership of the CCP<sup>1089</sup> were prominent themes, and to this end, Xi deployed the party-state’s vast censorship and surveillance apparatus to quell public criticism of Beijing’s response as well as discussion of the origin, scope, and severity of the outbreak. For example, the Politburo Standing Committee meeting ordered the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) to “take the epidemic prevention and control work as your top political task at present...[and] use the power of the whole organization and the whole system to do a good job with online propaganda and guidance work [related to] epidemic prevention and control....”<sup>1090</sup> The CAC’s goal in curating online content was described in Orwellian terms as “forming unity of will into an impregnable stronghold” by “constructing a favorable atmosphere online.”<sup>1091</sup>

#### **JANUARY 2020: LEADING GROUP REFLECTS CCP’S PRIORITIZATION OF POLITICS ABOVE PUBLIC HEALTH**

On January 26, the PRC State Council established a nine-person central leading group to direct the response to the coronavirus epidemic. Premier Li Keqiang chaired it, and the vice chairman was Wang Huning, a member of the Politburo Standing Committee and the CCP’s czar for ideology. Huang Kunming, the head of the CCP Propaganda Department, was also a member of the task force.<sup>1092</sup> Sun Chunlan, another member of the leading group, did hold the health portfolio as Vice Premier, but she had no background in science, medicine, or public health, and Sun too had previously worked in mostly political and propaganda roles, including as the former head of the United Front Work Department, a CCP organization tasked with co-opting key groups in society and building support for the CCP.<sup>1093</sup> The presence of Zhao Kezhi, the Minister of Public Security, as a member of the task force further reflected the CCP’s focus on “stability maintenance,” which his ministry is charged with overseeing.<sup>1094</sup>



Not a single public health leader, such as Ma Xiaowei, the minister in charge of the NHC, and Dr. George Fu Gao, the director-general of the CCDCP, was appointed to the leading group. It consisted entirely of career CCP cadres drawn largely from the propaganda, public security, and stability maintenance systems.<sup>1095</sup> The leading group's purely political composition stood in contrast to the task force assembled to respond to the SARS outbreak in 2003, which included two senior health officials, one senior official from the Ministry of Science and Technology, and one senior official responsible for logistics.<sup>1096</sup>

#### JANUARY 2020: HUBEI VICE GOVERNOR RETURNS TO THE WIV

On January 26, Xiao Juhua, the vice governor of Hubei Province who “inspected” the WIV’s BSL-4 laboratory campus on December 5, returned to the WIV to investigate its work and direct its R&D efforts to combat the coronavirus epidemic.<sup>1097</sup> Xiao conveyed to the WIV the “important instructions” of Xi Jinping to “strengthen the investigation into the origin [of the virus] and etiological testing and analysis, [and] accelerate the research and development of therapeutics and vaccines.”<sup>1098</sup> Xiao alluded to a lack of coordination among the various lines of effort underway at the WIV, likely a reference to research that was being conducted by the PLA AMMS alongside the WIV’s own efforts: “She stressed that during the R&D strategic campaign process, matters that require coordination should be conducted according to the principle of ‘one matter, one report,’ [and] ‘special matters [need] special handling,’ promptly turning things around and removing the ‘obstacles’ in order to bring about highly-efficient advancements.”<sup>1099</sup>

#### JANUARY 2020: NHC IGNORES ASYMPTOMATIC SPREAD, EXCLUDES POSITIVE PATIENTS FROM COUNT

On January 27, the NHC issued its fourth edition of surveillance guidelines for the novel coronavirus.<sup>1100</sup> This set of guidelines instructed health officials to only report “confirmed cases” in the national tally of infections, and “confirmed cases” were defined to exclude people who had tested positive for the novel coronavirus but displayed only mild clinical symptoms or no symptoms at all.<sup>1101</sup> In addition to a positive test result, a “confirmed case” had to meet at least one of three epidemiological criteria and at least two of three clinical manifestations of the disease.<sup>1102</sup> Drawing such a distinction between a “positive diagnosis” and a “confirmed case” stood at odds with WHO guidance, which states that “confirmed cases are those diagnosed with COVID-19 virus

in the laboratory with or without clinical signs and symptoms.”<sup>1103</sup> A public health expert interviewed by VOA said he was not aware of any government worldwide that had adopted the PRC’s approach of excluding positive cases that are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic from confirmed cases counts.<sup>1104</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: CHINESE SCIENTISTS TRACE PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION TO DECEMBER**

On January 29, a large consortium of scientists, including George Fu Gao and many others from the CCDCP, published a paper in the New England Journal of Medicine that analyzed the available epidemiological data from December 2019 and the first part of January 2020. They concluded: “[The number of] cases of Novel coronavirus–infected pneumonia has been doubling in size approximately every 7.4 days in Wuhan at this stage. Human-to-human transmission among close contacts has occurred since the middle of December and spread out gradually within a month after that.”<sup>1105</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: FIREBRAND MAOIST ACADEMIC MAKES VEILED CRITICISM OF XI JINPING**

On January 30, Peking University Professor Kong Qingdong published a cryptic poem online about the last emperor of the Ming Dynasty, employing a well-known historical incident to imply that the Chinese people were preparing to overthrow Xi Jinping.<sup>1106</sup> Kong is known as a crass figure with a penchant for stirring controversy, a proponent of Maoism, and a strong supporter of former Politburo Member Bo Xilai, a rival of Xi’s who was sacked in 2012 and sentenced to life in prison in 2013.<sup>1107</sup>

**JANUARY 2020: MOST SEEKS TO STOP VISITING FOREIGN SCIENTISTS FROM “SPREADING RUMORS”**

On January 31, the MOST issued a nationwide directive to all of the laboratories and educational institutions under its jurisdiction about their responsibilities for the foreign experts visiting China and working under their charge.<sup>1108</sup> In addition to requiring that basic information about the virus and required prevention measures be shared with foreign scientists in their own languages so that they did not spread the virus to others, the directive told officials how to respond if a foreigner was infected, and made clear that they should ensure that foreign scientists working in China did not access or spread information about the outbreak that was not officially sanctioned. “Effectively guide [foreigners], boost their confidence, use official authoritative channels to launch



propaganda [work], and guide the foreign experts to not believe rumors and not spread rumors.”<sup>1109</sup>

#### JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020: XI JINPING **DISAPPEARS** FROM PUBLIC EYE FOR EXTENDED PERIOD

Between January 30 and February 4, CCP and state media outlets did not publish any photos or video of Xi Jinping.<sup>1110</sup> It was a conspicuously long period of absence, as Xi had dominated the daily news for much of his seven plus years in the top position, and it may have reflected internal turmoil over Xi’s response to the outbreak.<sup>1111</sup> On February 5, Xinhua reported that Xi met with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, an event that seemed staged to give the appearance of normalcy.<sup>1112</sup> Aside from this one reported meeting, Xi was absent from state media and the public eye for 12 consecutive days. On February 10, Xi made his first public appearance, visiting the “frontline” of the pandemic response in Beijing’s Chaoyang District, shown by media donning a mask and having his temperature taken.<sup>1113</sup>

#### JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020: CHINESE CITIZENS BECOME THE FIRST TO SUSPECT A **LABORATORY ORIGIN**

Speculation about a possible laboratory origin of SARS-CoV-2 began among people in China, not foreign observers, as early as January 2020.<sup>1114</sup> On January 27, Zhang Jinshuo, a bat expert at the CAS Institute of Zoology interviewed by a journalist from the Southern Weekly, cast doubt on the theory that SARS-CoV-2 was transmitted directly from a bat to a human, noting that he had worked with bats on an almost daily basis for 12 years and had never been infected with a coronavirus. The same reporter spoke with Zhou Jiajun, a bat researcher with the Zhejiang Provincial State Forestry Bureau, who noted that bites were common in his line of work, but “no one has yet been infected with an unknown disease” as a result of such bites.<sup>1115</sup>

WIV coronavirus expert Shi Zhengli, in a candid moment with a foreign journalist, admitted that her first thought was that the coronavirus could have come from her lab.<sup>1116</sup> Aside from that one interview, however, Shi has stuck to issuing denials that her lab was involved. On February 2, she wrote on the social media platform WeChat: “I, Shi Zhengli, solemnly swear on my life that this has nothing to do with our laboratory,” and added that virus was “nature punishing the human race for keeping uncivilized habits.”<sup>1117</sup>



Shortly after Shi's WeChat denial, a person called Dr. Wu Xiaohua posted on social media alleging that the outbreak was due to poor lab management at the WIV. Wu noted that Shi had demonstrated in a 2015 study that she knew how to artificially manipulate coronaviruses, and challenged Shi to answer questions about suspicious features of the SARS-CoV-2 genome.<sup>1118</sup> Wu also posted an article on a popular news site specializing in military and nationalist content that was widely circulated on the Chinese language web, but has since been removed.<sup>1119</sup> Little is known about Wu and she has not posted on Weibo since February 2020.<sup>1120</sup> On February 4, Xu Bo, a well-known billionaire entrepreneur who is the founder and chairman of one of China's top mobile game companies, reportedly posted a criticism of the WIV for engineering the virus that started the pandemic on his personal Weibo account.<sup>1121</sup> Xu's posts reportedly included considerable detail about Shi's history of gain-of-function research with human ACE2 receptors,<sup>1122</sup> the cellular entry point exploited by SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1123</sup>

**FEBRUARY 2020: XI SEEKS TO ADDRESS "SHORTCOMINGS" AND TO "PATCH HOLES THAT LEAK"**

On February 3, Xi Jinping addressed a Politburo Standing Committee meeting that was scheduled specifically to address the authorities' response to the coronavirus outbreak. It was held during a period of prolonged absence from the public eye for Xi and not disclosed to the public until Qiushi, the CCP Central Committee's official journal, published Xi's remarks on February 15.<sup>1124</sup> Xi focused on four broad areas: 1) key aspects of prevention and control work to address the developing outbreak, 2) maintaining social stability during the epidemic, 3) managing public opinion, and 4) minimizing disruptions to the economy.<sup>1125</sup> Xi opened with what felt like a defense of his handling of the outbreak: "From the beginning of the year to the present day, epidemic prevention and control has been the issue that I have followed most closely.... I have constantly tracked the spread of the epidemic and the progress of prevention and control work, and continuously issued oral instructions and written instructions."<sup>1126</sup>

Invoking China's revolutionary past, Xi Jinping called the epidemic response a "people's war," and stressed that he had ordered a "comprehensive mobilization" of officials across the nation to fight that war.<sup>1127</sup> Xi not only defended the timeliness of his response, but also the correctness of his decisions: "All in all, the Central Party's judgments with regard to the epidemic situation have been correct, each work deployment has been timely, and the measures adopted have been effective."<sup>1128</sup>

To strengthen the case that he had handled the outbreak well, Xi appealed to praise from the international community: “When I met with the WHO Director-General Tedros, Tedros said that the speed of China’s actions and the scale of [our response] was something seldom seen anywhere in the world, [that] these are the advantages of China’s system and the experiences other countries should learn from, [and that he] believed that the measures that China had adopted would effectively control and ultimately defeat the epidemic.”<sup>1129</sup>

When Xi discussed the key aspects of prevention and control work, the emphasis was on the central authorities directing the response from Beijing and local authorities implementing those directions without question or deviation. “Epidemic prevention and control must uphold [the principle] of coordinating all the activities of the nation like moves in a game of chess,” Xi said, “Party committees and governments at all levels must resolutely obey the unified commands, unified coordination, and unified dispatch...of the Central Party Committee to the point that all orders and prohibitions are strictly enforced.”<sup>1130</sup> Xi highlighted “weak links and problems that deserve attention,” and told officials they “must pay close attention to making up for the shortcomings and patching holes that leak.”<sup>1131</sup> Officials who did not obey his orders would be punished through the CCP’s internal accountability system, Xi warned, and severe cases of malfeasance and dereliction of duty would be criminally prosecuted.<sup>1132</sup>

Xi did not overlook the importance of the origin question. “Defeating this disease is inseparable from the support of science and technology,” Xi stressed, “We must scientifically prove the origin of the virus, ascertain the source of infection and the mode of transmission, closely track the mutation of the virus, and promptly research prevention and control tactics and measures.”<sup>1133</sup> Xi recognized the importance of researchers sharing information with each other, but he limited the scope of such exchanges to Chinese researchers only and to information that was not classified: “Relevant data and case materials, except those required to be kept secret by law or regulation, and under the precondition of protecting state security, should be openly shared with the scientific and technological community inside our country, and experts in clinical medicine, epidemiology, and virology should be organized to study the key characteristics of the virus, such as transmissibility and pathogenicity, and come up with practical research results as soon as possible.”<sup>1134</sup>

Xi Jinping framed the epidemic response in political terms as much as public health terms, reiterating the importance of maintaining “social stability” (i.e., suppressing and/or containing potential challenges to the party-state and its policies, preferably at the germination stage).<sup>1135</sup> Xi urged officials to “do your utmost to defend the normal economic and social order,”<sup>1136</sup> and called specifically for a greater presence of security forces: “We must increase the involvement of the police forces, strengthen the conspicuous use of police forces, fully implement the joint prevention and control mechanism of the joint logistics and joint mobilization of the public security forces and the People’s Armed Police, and increase the visibility of the police [to the public] and their ability to manage [situations]. We must maintain a strike-hard, high-pressure posture....”<sup>1137</sup>

In order to mute public criticism of Beijing’s response to the outbreak, Xi ordered officials to redouble information control measures and propaganda to shape public opinion in ways that conform to the CCP’s narrative: “Currently the epidemic prevention and control situation is grave and complex, and some of the masses are anxious and have a fearful mind. We must redouble our efforts at propaganda and public opinion work, plan as a whole for both online and offline [information controls], domestic and international, on minor matters and major issues, and do better at strengthening confidence, warming people’s hearts, unifying the people’s minds, so as to better safeguard the overall stability of society.”<sup>1138</sup>

Xi Jinping told officials to “do your utmost to stabilize the public mood,”<sup>1139</sup> and stressed: “[W]e must control overall public opinion and diligently strive to create a good public opinion atmosphere. Strengthen the management and control of online media...and crack down in accordance with the law on those who take the opportunity to spread rumors and create trouble.”<sup>1140</sup> Xi further tasked the propaganda apparatus with manipulating international perceptions to the CCP’s advantage: “Take the initiative to effectively influence international public opinion.... [T]ell the story of China’s fight against the epidemic well....”<sup>1141</sup>

Xi closed his remarks by pointing to how the epidemic had exposed “shortcomings” in the system. “This epidemic has been a major test of our country’s governance system and capabilities, and we certainly must review our experiences and absorb the lessons,” Xi said, “It is necessary to improve the national emergency management system and



improve our ability to deal with urgent, difficult, dangerous, and weighty tasks in response to the shortcomings and deficiencies exposed during the response to this epidemic.”<sup>1142</sup> He reiterated this point for good measure: “This epidemic has exposed the continued existence of shortcomings and blind spots in our governance of urban public environments. We must conduct a thorough investigation and rectification to make up for the shortcomings in public health.”<sup>1143</sup>

While Xi did not clearly articulate all of the shortcomings that he had in mind, he gave one important example, and in so doing, he may have unintentionally pointed to a much earlier timeline for the outbreak (and by implication, knowledge of that outbreak): “This epidemic exposed a severe lack of reserves of key epidemic prevention supplies (such as personal protective suits).”<sup>1144</sup> Xi ordered officials to boost reserves of PPE and to consider what other types of strategic supplies may need replenishing.

Without saying so explicitly, Xi went on to imply that the wildlife trade may have caused the epidemic:

We have long recognized that eating wild animals is very risky, but the “wild game industry” is still immense in size, posing a major hidden danger to public health and safety. We cannot be indifferent to this anymore! I have already issued written instructions on this issue. Relevant departments should strengthen the implementation of laws, strengthen regulation of markets, resolutely ban and severely crack down on illegal wildlife markets and trade, resolutely eradicate the bad habit of eating wild animals, and control major public health risks from the source.<sup>1145</sup>

Curiously, Xi’s next comment was much more relevant to a biocontainment failure than to a zoonotic spillover at a wet market: “We must also promptly introduce the Biosecurity Law and other laws.”<sup>1146</sup> As documented earlier in this chronology, the NPC began drafting the Biosecurity Law at Xi’s behest in July 2019 and completed its first reading in October 2019. The law was passed in October 2020. The text of the law contains only one perfunctory and passing reference to the prevention of the spread of zoonotic diseases,<sup>1147</sup> but it dedicates an entire chapter with multiple provisions to strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in laboratories. Xi would revisit the issue of biosafety and biosecurity in greater detail in a speech on February 14.

## FEBRUARY 2020: FAMOUS LIBERAL ACADEMIC BLAMES XI JINPING FOR CORONAVIRUS COVER-UP

On February 4, Xu Zhangrun, a famous jurist and law professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing, published a polemical essay online called “When Fury Overcomes Fear,” which levied a scathing criticism at Xi Jinping for his mishandling of the COVID-19 outbreak (without ever directly invoking his name). Xu wrote eloquently of the human toll of the political cover-up of the outbreak, noting that the authorities were determined to ensure that the world never knew the full scope of the toll: “As I write these words, in the city of Wuhan, and within the province of Hubei, there are still countless numbers of people unable to get adequate medical attention, people who have been abandoned as they wail in hopeless isolation. Will we ever know how many people have as a result been condemned to a premature death? This is the reality of the so-called ‘all-powerful state...’”<sup>1148</sup> Xu called for an independent inquiry into the origin of pandemic and its cover-up: “It should also be a matter of pressing urgency that an independent body be established to investigate the origins of the coronavirus epidemic, to trace the resulting cover-up, identify the responsible parties, and analyze the systemic origins of the crisis.”<sup>1149</sup>

Xu noted how the censorship apparatus of the party-state, the largest the world has ever known, worked overtime to stifle public discussion of the outbreak: “Censorship increases by the day, and the effect of this is to weaken or obliterate those very things that can and should play a positive role in alerting society to critical issues [of public concern]. In response to the coronavirus, for instance, at first the authorities shut down all hints of public disquiet and outspoken commentary via censorship; they then simply shut down entire cities.”<sup>1150</sup> Xu placed the blame for the resultant suffering squarely at the feet of Xi Jinping:

The cause of all of this lies, ultimately, with The Axle [that is, Xi Jinping] and the cabal that surrounds him. It began with the imposition of stern bans on the reporting of accurate information about the virus, which served to embolden deception at every level of government, although it only struck its true stride when bureaucrats throughout the system consciously shrugged off responsibility for the unfolding crisis while continuing to seek the approbation of their superiors. They stood by blithely as the crucial window of opportunity that was available to deal with the outbreak snapped shut in their faces.... The storied bureaucratic

apparatus that is responsible for the unfettered outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan repeatedly hid or misrepresented the facts about the dire nature of the crisis. The dilatory actions of bureaucrats at every level exacerbated the urgency of the situation. Their behavior has reflected their complete lack of interest in the welfare and the lives of normal people. What is of consequence for them is their tireless support for the self-indulgent celebratory behavior of the “Core Leader,” whose favor is constantly sought through their adulation for the peerless achievements of the system. Within such a self-regarding bureaucracy, there is even less interest in the role that this country and its people can and should play in a globally interconnected community.<sup>1151</sup>

#### FEBRUARY 2020: REVISED CASE DEFINITION **COMPLICATES** CONFIRMATION OF CASES OUTSIDE HUBEI

On February 4, the NHC issued its fifth edition of surveillance guidelines for the novel coronavirus.<sup>1152</sup> This set of guidelines instructed health officials to treat the diagnosis of novel coronavirus cases differently for individuals located anywhere in the country outside of Hubei Province, for which Wuhan is the capital, and those who are located in Hubei. While suspected cases in Hubei Province could be diagnosed with only two of the three clinical manifestations,<sup>1153</sup> even in the absence of any of the four identified epidemiological links,<sup>1154</sup> a suspected case in all other provinces had to fulfil all three clinical criteria if an epidemiological link was not established.<sup>1155</sup> In both cases, whether inside or outside of Hubei Province, a “suspected case” could only become a “confirmed case” if at least two clinical symptoms accompanied a positive test. Patients who tested positive but were asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, or mildly symptomatic were excluded from the public count of “confirmed cases.” PRC authorities reportedly classified the number of known cases that were asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, or mildly symptomatic in China as a state secret.<sup>1156</sup>

#### FEBRUARY 2020: JOURNALIST CHEN QIUSHI **DISAPPEARS** WHILE DOCUMENTING SUFFERING IN WUHAN

On February 6, a 34-year-old lawyer turned citizen journalist Chen Qiushi, who had traveled to Wuhan to investigate the outbreak, posted his last video report online detailing the dire conditions that he was observing in Wuhan. His family was soon notified that he had been detained by security agents, who described his detention as “quarantine.”<sup>1157</sup> Chen had traveled from Qingdao to Wuhan on the last train in service



on January 24 as the city went on lockdown, and he issued several reports to his 740,000 followers on social media about the medical emergency unfolding in the city until security agents detained him.<sup>1158</sup> He visited the Huanan Seafood Market and a series of hospitals, recording the influx of patients and speaking with nurses about the virus. Chen's reporting struck a nerve with the Chinese public by revealing important facts, such as his interviews with local taxi drivers who attested to chatter about the appearance of a "SARS-like illness" in early December.<sup>1159</sup>

For seven months after he disappeared into custody, no information about Chen's wellbeing or whereabouts was provided by the authorities. In September 2020, a friend of Chen's revealed that Chen had been allowed to return to his hometown of Qingdao but remained in a form of strict detention called residential surveillance.<sup>1160</sup> No further public information was revealed about Chen until September 30, 2021, when Chen posted a video and letter online. "Over the past year and eight months, I have experienced a lot of things. Some of it can be talked about, some of it can't," Chen wrote in the letter, "I believe you understand."<sup>1161</sup>

#### **FEBRUARY 2020: COVID-19 KILLS WHISTLEBLOWER DOCTOR, CENSORS OVERWHELMED BY OUTCRY**

On February 7, Dr. Li Wenliang of the Central Hospital of Wuhan, a whistleblower who leaked information about the outbreak of a SARS-like virus in late December and was subsequently punished for "spreading rumors," died from COVID-19.<sup>1162</sup> Li's death set off an unprecedented torrent of stinging criticism of the authorities on social media in a volume so great that it overwhelmed the party-state's formidable censorship apparatus for several hours. This outpouring of grief included a short-lived campaign under the hashtag #WeWantFreedomOfSpeech, directed against what many Chinese viewed as an attempt by officials to cover up the public health crisis.<sup>1163</sup> Even two years after Li's death, Chinese netizens were still flocking to his social media page to leave commemorative messages honoring his legacy.<sup>1164</sup>

#### **FEBRUARY 2020: BUSINESSMAN DISAPPEARS AFTER REVEALING IMAGES OF MOUNTING DEATH TOLL**

On February 9, a businessman turned citizen journalist Fang Bin disappeared after posting video reports of what was happening in Wuhan online.<sup>1165</sup> On January 25, Fang began sharing video footage online that he had filmed around the city depicting the harsh

conditions of lockdown. On February 1, Fang posted a video of bodies of those who had died of the novel coronavirus piling up at Wuhan hospitals and being loaded onto buses. On February 2, he disclosed that the authorities had seized his laptop and interrogated him, and he disappeared on February 9.<sup>1166</sup> More than three years later at the time of writing, the authorities have still not disclosed any information about his whereabouts, wellbeing, or any legal charges he may be facing. Fang is reportedly a practitioner of Falun Gong, a religious movement that has been banned in China since 1999, who has been previously incarcerated for practicing his faith.<sup>1167</sup>

**FEBRUARY 2020: BEIJING FURTHER STRENGTHENS CONTROL OF BSL-3 & BSL-4 LABORATORIES**

On February 9, seven cabinet-level ministries and subordinate departments of the PRC central government,<sup>1168</sup> one of which was the CAS, jointly issued a nationwide directive titled "Notice on Strengthening Biosafety Management of Laboratories [Studying] Zoonotic Pathogenic Microorganisms."<sup>1169</sup> The directive stated its purpose clearly as "to deeply implement the holistic view of national security, earnestly advance the biosecurity of the state, and further strengthen the biosafety management of laboratories [studying] animal pathogenic microorganisms."<sup>1170</sup> It further emphasized the link between the political stability of the regime and biosafety: "The biosafety of laboratories [studying] pathogenic microorganisms is an important component of the biosecurity of the state."<sup>1171</sup>

Readers will hear echoes of several reports at the WIV in 2019 in the directive's reference to "hidden dangers" as a justification for the actions it was ordering provincial and local authorities to take: "Problems and hidden dangers still exist in the biosafety management work at some laboratories. Each local government and relevant department must earnestly strengthen their sense of responsibility and sense of mission to do a good job with biosafety management of laboratories [studying] pathogenic microorganisms, strengthen their security mindset, improve management measures, carry out management responsibilities, and effectively prevent and neutralize biosafety dangers in laboratories."<sup>1172</sup>

If the central authorities believed that the initial human infection of SARS-CoV-2 likely occurred at the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan, it is unclear why they took the time to address biosafety conditions at BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories nationwide precisely

when the COVID-19 outbreak was at its most acute stage in China and they were urgently mobilizing an all-hands-on-deck response. After all, the NHC had just issued the second edition of the Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for the Novel Coronavirus on January 23, and the NHC was one of the seven agencies that issued this new notice on February 7. Clearly the central leadership believed that a broader directive was needed focusing on BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs regardless of whether they were working with SARS-CoV-2. The directive's focus on BSL-4 labs is particularly significant because only two such labs were in operation in China at the time – the one at the WIV and another in Harbin.<sup>1173</sup>

The decision to issue another regulatory directive suggests a recognition that biosafety problems were serious enough that they had to be addressed immediately and could not wait until after the outbreak was under control. Judging from how the problem was framed in this and other directives, the CCP leadership likely believed that addressing laboratory biosafety was necessary to bring the outbreak under control. In their domestic response to the pandemic, PRC authorities recognized that poor biosafety conditions could lead to accidental infections, and they took actions accordingly. In communications with the outside world, however, Beijing adamantly dismissed (and continues to dismiss) the possibility that the virus could have emerged from a laboratory incident.

The directive had five particularly notable provisions. First, it sought to standardize an administrative permit process that would require any person or institution conducting research and experiments in BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs that would involve highly pathogenic agents, or agents suspected to be highly pathogenic, to obtain advanced approval from provincial authorities in order to commence the work. Second, it required provincial authorities to strengthen their inspection regime for labs within their jurisdictions. Third, it required BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs to seek guidance on maintaining lab security from local offices of the Ministry of Public Security.

Fourth, provincial authorities were told to "strictly investigate and deal with" unauthorized research, to "strengthen management of the publication of research findings" for labs in their jurisdiction, and to incorporate lab safety management as a criterion for the performance evaluations of labs. Fifth, the directive included an entire subsection on the importance of managing the storage and preservation of viral and



bacterial samples. The reader may recall that the risks of improper storage of viral strains and samples was a theme in reporting at the WIV in 2019. In July 2019, the WIV issued a procurement notice for a project involving a scalable and automated sample storage management system, and in November 2019, the proper storage of viral samples was a major focus of a biosafety training led by officials from Beijing.

The directive called on local officials who inspect laboratories to remember that biosafety risks exist not just inside the laboratory, but from the beginning of the collection process of pathogen discovery: “Staff who collect samples of highly pathogenic microorganisms shall prevent the spread of pathogenic microorganisms and infections during the collection process and keep detailed records of the source of the sample, the collection process, and the method in which the samples were taken.”<sup>1174</sup> It also recognized the importance of proper waste management and the risk of infection if a live virus used in an experiment is not fully inactivated before disposal: “All laboratories and their subordinate work units should strengthen the supervision of the disposal of waste from relevant experimental activities to ensure effective sterilization and a traceable flow.”<sup>1175</sup> In July 2019, the WIV issued a procurement notice related to renovation of the hazardous waste treatment system at the BSL-4 lab on the Zhengdian Park campus.<sup>1176</sup>

Another provision of the directive pointed to the need to address laboratory construction issues, telling local officials: “[C]ooperate [with other departments] to do a good job in the inspection of new construction, renovations, and expansions of Biosafety Level-3 and Level-4 laboratories. Establish and improve the inter-departmental information exchange mechanism for BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratory management information, and jointly promote the construction of laboratories in accordance with laws and regulations.”<sup>1177</sup> Readers will recall reports from June and November 2019 that made references to construction problems at the new Zhengdian Park campus of the WIV and a lack of relevant expertise that they called the “three nos.”<sup>1178</sup>

#### **FEBRUARY 2020: SENIOR WUHAN AND HUBEI PARTY OFFICIALS SACKED**

On February 11, CCP central authorities removed the two most senior public health officials in Hubei Province – Zhang Jin, the CCP party secretary of Hubei Provincial Health Commission and Liu Yingzi, the commission’s director – and replaced them with the deputy director of the NHC, Wang Hesheng. Earlier in February, 337 officials in Hubei Province were penalized in unspecified ways, including six officials who were

terminated for “dereliction of duty.”<sup>1179</sup> On February 13, CCP central authorities removed Hubei Provincial Party Secretary Jiang Chaoliang, a loyalist of PRC Vice President Wang Qishan, and replaced him with then Shanghai Major Ying Yong, who worked closely with Xi Jinping earlier in his career when Xi was party secretary of Zhejiang province.<sup>1180</sup> CCP central authorities also removed Wuhan Municipal Party Secretary Ma Guoqiang and replaced him with Jinan Municipal Party Secretary Wang Zhonglin, but the facts around his removal suggested it was a political reshuffle, not a punishment of Ma.<sup>1181</sup>

No reason was given for Jiang’s and Ma’s removal, but Ma may have sealed his fate when he admitted in a nationally televised interview that the impact of the virus on China and the world “would have been less” if containment measures had been taken sooner.<sup>1182</sup> Wuhan Mayor Zhou Xianwang likewise crossed Beijing by admitting to the public that the reason it took local authorities so long to warn their residents about the novel coronavirus was that they could not speak out until they had clearance to do so from above.<sup>1183</sup> Beijing knew it risked provoking public ire if it removed Zhou immediately for his frank comments, which were an accurate account of both how things transpired and how the political system is designed to work, so Beijing waited until January 2021 to quietly push Zhou out of office.<sup>1184</sup>

This relatively limited personnel shuffle nevertheless stood in stark contrast to the “vast purge” that the CCP carried out in the spring of 2003 after it admitted that officials had been covering up the outbreak of SARS-CoV-1.<sup>1185</sup> No subsequent purge of relevant officials has been observed related to the cover up of key information about SARS-CoV-2, which suggests that local officials who engaged in obfuscation were following Beijing’s directions, the first known instance of which was the NHC’s issuance of a nationwide gag order on January 3, as described above.

#### **FEBRUARY 2020: TOO-GOOD-TO-BE-TRUE NUMBERS CONCEAL THE SCOPE & SEVERITY OF OUTBREAK**

By February, it was becoming increasingly clear that the official PRC accounting of COVID-19 cases and related deaths in China was not believable, because, as one economist who focuses on China aptly put it, the data were “not arithmetically sensible.”<sup>1186</sup> From the moment that Wuhan authorities partially acknowledged a pneumonia outbreak on the last day of 2019 until the time of this study’s publication in

spring 2023, the official tally of COVID-19 cases and fatalities in China has diverged wildly from the pattern of experience with this disease as reflected in the data released by every other country in the world that lacks a regime with a similar penchant for making data conform to its political prerogatives.

In March 2020, U.S. intelligence agencies reportedly concluded that PRC authorities had fabricated COVID-19 figures to intentionally undercount and conceal the true scope and severity of the outbreak.<sup>1187</sup> That same month, British scientists advising Downing Street also reportedly told Prime Minister Boris Johnson that the PRC reports of COVID-19 infections were “downplayed by a factor of 15 to 40 times.”<sup>1188</sup>

A brief review of a few of the oddities plaguing the PRC’s official COVID-19 figures is sufficient to conclude that the data are neither complete nor accurate. As previously noted, not a single new case was reported by PRC authorities between January 5 and 17, 2020, even though retrospective infection data shows that at least hundreds were infected during this time.<sup>1189</sup> The NHC revised the case definition for COVID-19 six times over the course of a month and a half,<sup>1190</sup> with unusually complex and narrowly defined criteria that were seemingly designed to exclude all but the most severe cases that had clear epidemiological links to Wuhan.

Patients with a positive test result, but no symptoms or only mild symptoms, were not counted. The number of known cases that were asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, or mildly symptomatic was reportedly classified as a state secret.<sup>1191</sup> Hubei Province did not start counting untested but clinically diagnosable patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms, including those who died from the disease before being tested, until late February. It is unclear if the rest of China was ever allowed to count clinically diagnosed patients, as the central authorities continued to exclude such cases after Hubei started counting them.<sup>1192</sup> To this day, scientific studies of COVID-19 mortality have no choice but to exclude China from consideration because it is the only country in the world, save Greenland and the former Spanish Sahara, which does not publish data on excess mortality.<sup>1193</sup>

One quantitative finance specialist who reviewed the PRC data in mid-February 2020 found that the number of cumulative deaths reported by the authorities could be described and predicted by a simple mathematical formula to a very high degree of accuracy, meaning there was essentially zero unexpected variability in the reported cases



from day-to-day.<sup>1194</sup> A biostatistician at New York University's School of Global Public Health who reviewed the PRC data likewise found its neat and tidy predictability to be unsettling and inconsistent with established knowledge about how epidemics evolve. "I have never in my years seen an r-squared of 0.99. As a statistician, it makes me question the data.... Real human data are never perfectly predictive when it comes to something like an epidemic," the biostatistician explained, "A really good r-squared, in terms of public health data, would be a 0.7. Anything like 0.99 would make me think that someone is simulating data. It would mean you already know what is going to happen."<sup>1195</sup>

Throughout winter and spring of 2020, PRC authorities claimed that the worst of the outbreak was limited to Hubei Province and its capital of Wuhan, which supposedly accounted for 97 percent of all COVID-related deaths,<sup>1196</sup> with only isolated pockets of cases elsewhere. All of the reported deaths in Hubei ostensibly occurred between January 1 and March 31, 2020. Thereafter, all reporting ceased.<sup>1197</sup> Derek Scissors, an economist whose specialty is China, believes that the reported cases outside of Hubei were "low by factor of 100 or more."<sup>1198</sup> Starting with a conservative estimate of 1.2 million migrants having left Hubei before the lockdown began (official state media in late January claimed between 1.5 to 2 million had left), combined with a conservative estimate of the infection rate (2.3 percent, the lowest number available), and assuming the virus had circulated for 21 days at that point (which is certainly an underestimate), Scissors was able to make an inference based on Italy's experience, the only model available at that time, which had reached 130,000 cases within 21 days of known circulation. Scaling up for the massive difference in population between the two countries, China had 2.9 million cases outside of Hubei Province in January 2020 alone.<sup>1199</sup>

Other attempts to generate more accurate estimates of the impact of COVID-19 in China show how grossly understated the official numbers have been. Based on excess mortality calculations, the Economist has surmised that the true number of deaths in China is approximately 1.7 million and the official statistics have understated the death rate by 17,000 percent.<sup>1200</sup> Total excess deaths in Wuhan alone between January 1, 2020, and March 31, 2020, reached at least 13,400, according to the Economist, an estimate that is more than triple the official tally.<sup>1201</sup>

A study conducted by the University of Washington, Ohio State University, and AT&T examined crematoriums in Wuhan in an attempt to approximate the actual death toll. They found that the city may have been incinerating between 800 and 2,000 bodies per day by the second week of February, which was at a time that the official COVID-19 death toll for all of China remained at around 700. Wuhan's crematoriums, as many as 86 of them, were found to be operating at full capacity and for 24 hours a day while local funeral homes were purchasing thousands of urns. The team estimated that around 36,000 people had died in Wuhan alone by mid-March; the central authorities acknowledged 2,524 deaths nationwide at the time.<sup>1202</sup>

Others have highlighted the incongruity between China's low case numbers and its claimed fatality rate. China's officials claim that the total case fatality rate in Wuhan, that is, the percentage of infected individuals who died, during this period was 5.6 percent, which is four times higher than the U.S. fatality rate of about 1.5 percent for COVID-19 infections.<sup>1203</sup> As one expert explained: "Either Covid was far more deadly in early 2020 in Wuhan than anywhere else, at any other time. Or – the denominator in the CFR calculation, which is the number of infections officially reported, was too small by a factor of 3 or 4."<sup>1204</sup>

Beijing would have us believe that China's total cases dropped approximately 91 percent from February 17 to March 22, 2020.<sup>1205</sup> They further claim that all deaths attributable to COVID-19 stopped abruptly in April 2020 (the same month that Xi Jinping declared victory in the "people's war" on COVID-19) despite tens of thousands of officially reported COVID-19 cases throughout China occurring since that time.<sup>1206</sup> Such claims can have no basis in reality, especially when we consider that the vaccination rate among the elderly is relatively low in China<sup>1207</sup> and the PRC-developed vaccines have low efficacy.<sup>1208</sup> For better perspective, the PRC claim to have had no COVID-related deaths since April 2020 would grant China a mortality rate 30 times lower than South Korea's, 50 times lower than Singapore's, and 73 times lower than New Zealand's during the same period.<sup>1209</sup> Moreover, trends in China's crude death rate tell us that the official claims about COVID-19 deaths cannot be true. The rate of increase in China's death rate accelerated by a factor of six times between 2019 and 2021 compared to the previous decade. In absolute numbers, the sharp inflection added almost one million "surplus" deaths above the trend line.<sup>1210</sup>

Beijing's production of too-good-to-be-true data is nothing new to regular observers of China. The CCP has spent decades earning its notoriety for fudging and/or fabricating economic figures<sup>1211</sup> and population data.<sup>1212</sup> Beijing's record of withholding the facts related to historical tragedies of its own making is even more damning. Just to name a few of the worst cases, historians' estimates of the actual death tolls from the famine that the Great Leap Forward induced,<sup>1213</sup> the violent chaos unleashed during the Cultural Revolution,<sup>1214</sup> and the military suppression of unarmed students protesting for political change in Tiananmen Square,<sup>1215</sup> all far exceeded what Beijing has been willing to acknowledge, even decades after the fact and the deaths of key decision-makers at those times.

#### FEBRUARY 2020: PRC AUTHORITIES FINALLY ADMIT MEDICAL STAFF INFECTED

On February 14, the NHC acknowledged that SARS-CoV-2 was spreading to and among medical professionals, and that a total of 1,716 healthcare workers had been infected in China.<sup>1216</sup> That disclosure meant that the number of healthcare workers in China infected with the SARS-CoV-2 had already exceeded the global total of healthcare workers infected during the entirety of the SARS epidemic from 2002-2003.<sup>1217</sup> The actual number of infections would likely be much higher if the authorities had counted asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, and mildly symptomatic cases. Readers will recall that the authorities explicitly denied any infections among medical professionals in the official announcement of the outbreak issued on December 31,<sup>1218</sup> a refrain that continued to appear in official statements, despite healthcare workers reporting illness after treating patients as early as December,<sup>1219</sup> until January 20 when the authorities acknowledged limited human-to-human transmission and 15 cases of healthcare workers in Wuhan who had contracted COVID-19.<sup>1220</sup>

#### FEBRUARY 2020: XI REITERATES BIOSECURITY CONCERNS IN CONTEXT OF PANDEMIC RESPONSE

On the afternoon of February 14, Xi Jinping convened a meeting of the Commission on Comprehensively Deepening Reform under the Politburo of the CCP Central Committee to address the challenge of reforming China's epidemic prevention and control system.<sup>1221</sup> Xi repeated his call from February 3 to strengthen biosecurity and biosafety (detailed above and below), including by incorporating both concepts into the PRC's national security framework and accelerating the passage of the Biosecurity Law. As we



will discuss below, Xi's comments also set off a flurry of regulatory activity by the State Council and its subordinate agencies, such as the MOST and the CDCP. Xi reiterated some of the themes he had touched on in late January and early February:

We must not only maintain a foothold in the present situation to win the blockade war of epidemic prevention and control scientifically and accurately, but we must also take the long-term perspective, review our experiences, and absorb the lessons. In light of the shortcoming and deficiencies exposed by this epidemic, we must pay special attention to making up for the shortcomings, patching the holes that leak, and fortifying the weak spots. What should be upheld must be upheld, what should be improved must be improved, what should be built must be built, and what should be implemented must be implemented in order to improve the system and mechanisms for major epidemic prevention and control and strengthen the national system for public health emergency management.<sup>1222</sup>

Xi apparently spoke at greater length on this occasion about the importance of shoring up biosafety and biosecurity in the context of preventing and control epidemics than he did in his February 3 speech to the Politburo Standing Committee. Xinhua reported that "Xi Jinping emphasized that it is necessary to strengthen legal protections for public health by comprehensively strengthening and improving the development of relevant laws and regulations in the field of public health, and by carefully evaluating the revision and improvement of laws and regulations such as the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases and the Law on Wildlife Protection."<sup>1223</sup> More importantly, Xi drew a clear link between the political security of the party-state, public health, and better regulation of biosafety and biosecurity:

From the high-priority perspective of protecting the people's health, safeguarding the security of the state, and defending the lasting political stability of the state, we must incorporate biosecurity and biosafety into the national security system, systematically plan for the construction of a national biosecurity and biosafety risk prevention and control system, and comprehensively improve the state's biosecurity and biosafety governance capabilities. It is necessary to press forward with the introduction of the biosecurity law as soon as possible and accelerate the construction of a national legal and regulatory system for biosafety and biosecurity as well as a system of institutional safeguards.<sup>1224</sup>

Xi's explicit linking of the stability of the CCP political system with the biosecurity/biosafety of laboratories was a noteworthy development. In the highly scripted and regimented informational environment maintained by the CCP, improvisation is an alien concept. There is virtually no chance that the underlying implication of Xi's statements – namely, that the COVID-19 outbreak could have resulted from a biosecurity/biosafety issue – would have been lost on Xi himself and the propaganda officials who edit reports of his speeches and manage the packaging and release of them.<sup>1225</sup> Moreover, at the time that Xi made these comments, the CCP was already suppressing online speculation by Chinese citizens who suspected that the novel coronavirus was bioengineered and had escaped from a laboratory.<sup>1226</sup> Some analysts surmised that Xi's willingness to disclose, however subtly, such potentially damaging information that hinted at a biosecurity incident was likely indicative of disputes inside the CCP over the adequacy of the leadership's response to the devastating outbreak and who deserved the blame for the emergence and spread of the virus.<sup>1227</sup>

Another theme raised in Xi's February 3 speech – the lack of key reserves prior to the pandemic – received fuller attention in his February 14 speech. "Optimize and ensure the production capacity and regional distribution of important emergency materials, so that they can be called up and used at critical moments," Xi underscored to officials.<sup>1228</sup> While Xi did not specifically mention PPE as one of the important emergency materials, he did explicitly mention PPE in the February 3 speech as an example of insufficient reserves. Moreover, the context of Xi's concerns about reserves in this speech also suggested that PPE was among the items for which officials had failed to stockpile sufficiently.

"For short-term possible shortages of material supplies, a centralized production management mechanism will be established to uniformly organize the supply of raw materials, arrange fixed-point production, and standardize quality standards, so as to ensure an orderly and forceful guarantee of emergency materials," Xi explained, "It is necessary to improve the national reserve system, scientifically adjust the categories, scale, and structure of the reserves, and upgrade the efficiency of the reserves. It is necessary to establish a unified national emergency material procurement and supply system, implement centralized management, unified allocation, and unified distribution of emergency relief materials, and promote a more efficient, safe, and controllable emergency material supply network."<sup>1229</sup>

One of Xi's comments suggested that he thought the outbreak could have been contained at the local level if officials had acted sooner and more aggressively: "Xi Jinping pointed to the necessity to reform and improve the epidemic disease prevention and control system, to resolutely implement a prevention-centric approach to the work and policies of public health and [individual] health, to insist on always being alert, moving the prevention threshold forward [in time], and preventing minor diseases from turning into major epidemics."<sup>1230</sup> He called on officials to "strengthen risk awareness, improve the coordinated system for the determination, assessment, decision-making, prevention and control of major risks to public health,"<sup>1231</sup> and to rely on technology to do so: "It is necessary to encourage the use of digital technologies, such as big data, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing, to better bring into effect its supporting role in areas such as epidemic monitoring and analysis, tracing the source of the virus, prevention, control, and treatment, and resource allocation."<sup>1232</sup>

#### **FEBRUARY 2020: BEIJING ISSUES YET ANOTHER SET OF BIOSAFETY GUIDELINES FOR SARS-COV-2**

On February 15, the PRC MOST issued new rules to strengthen the management of biosafety and biosecurity in laboratories that study "high-level viruses," particularly singling out SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1233</sup> The directive was called "Guiding Opinion Concerning the Strengthening of Biosafety at Novel Coronavirus High-Level Virus Microbiological Laboratories,"<sup>1234</sup> and it was apparently issued quickly in response to Xi's remarks on February 3 and 14.<sup>1235</sup> The MOST was also one of the seven cabinet-level agencies mentioned above that issued a directive to BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories just six days earlier on February 9. It appears that one difference between the February 9 directive and the February 15 directive is that the latter specifically addressed SARS-CoV-2, while the former was more generally focused on the risk of "zoonotic pathogenic microorganisms." While the MOST issued this regulatory measure because it had the benefit of immediacy, the ministry still saw a clear need for the NPC to finalize and pass the Biosecurity Law.<sup>1236</sup> The directive's purpose was described as "promoting the establishment of a long-lasting mechanism to prevent and control biosafety risks."<sup>1237</sup>

The full text of the February 15 directive could not be located, including on any PRC government website. Given the subject matter and its focus on SARS-CoV-2, it was likely marked internal or classified, and thus never released to the public. An official CCP report from Heilongjiang Province, however, gave some insight into its content:



In accordance with the Guiding Opinion Concerning the Strengthening of Biosafety at Novel Coronavirus High-Level Virus Microbiological Laboratories, we must comprehensively strengthen biosafety education and eliminate hidden biosafety dangers, organize the vast majority of employees to earnestly study the systems related to “biosafety management,” go a step further to remind research personnel to do a good job in their own personal protection while conducting scientific research, ensure that scientific research is carried out in an orderly manner, and implement biosafety precautions.<sup>1238</sup>

On the day the directive was issued, Wu Yuanbin, a senior official at the MOST, also spoke briefly about the directive at the NHC’s press conference on the epidemic response.<sup>1239</sup> Wu made the following comments:

The Guiding Opinion Concerning the Strengthening of Biosafety at Novel Coronavirus High-Level Virus Microbiological Laboratories was issued to require laboratories to become a platform serving the needs of the science and technology campaign to tackle the problem [of the outbreak]. All supervisory departments must strengthen the management of laboratories, especially the viruses [held in those laboratories], to ensure biosafety [is maintained]. When carrying out the science and technology campaign to tackle the problem [of the outbreak], the emphasis should be not only placed on special matters requiring special handling, but also emphasize compliance with laws and regulations....<sup>1240</sup>

#### **FEBRUARY 2020: ANIMALS TRIALS OF VACCINE ALREADY UNDERWAY**

On February 15, Yan Jinghua, a senior researcher at the CAS Institute of Microbiology, spoke briefly at a press conference held by the NHC on the epidemic response.<sup>1241</sup> Yan was involved in one of the research groups that was developing a recombinant protein vaccine for SARS-CoV-2, and prior to that, she had done considerable work on vaccine development for the MERS coronavirus. In the course of explaining the progress achieved toward developing a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, Yan noted that animal trials were already underway: “Currently we have already finished the design of this vaccine [recombinant protein type], now we are already conducting tests in animals to see its immunogenic effect, and then we must conduct a safety evaluation. At present the work we are also in the process of doing is researching and developing the production technology [for the vaccine].”<sup>1242</sup>

Readers will recall that PRC authorities did not admit that the novel coronavirus was contagious until January 20, and now, less than a month later, we are told that a candidate vaccine is already being tested in animals. This abbreviated timeline raises questions about when the work on the vaccine actually began. It could not have begun on or after January 20 because that would not have afforded enough time to reach this stage of vaccine development before February 15. We can thus infer that state-run research institutes like the CAS were likely tasked with developing a vaccine before the authorities even admitted to the public that one person could transmit the virus to another.

**FEBRUARY 2020: CHINESE SCIENTISTS AND NETIZENS CONTINUE TO SPECULATE ABOUT LAB ORIGIN**

On February 15, Xiao Botao of the South China University of Technology, who had recently returned from postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School, and Xiao Lei of the Wuhan University of Science and Technology published a pre-print paper arguing that the “coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan,” specifically pointing to a laboratory of the Wuhan CDCP, located within walking distance of the Huanan Seafood Market, and the WIV, both of which specialized in pathogen collection and identification and studied the bats most likely to be the natural reservoir of such a coronavirus.<sup>1243</sup> They assessed that a zoonotic spillover was unlikely to have occurred in an urban setting like Wuhan, particularly as it would have involved bats that are not endemic to the area. They further noted the lack of evidence pointing to an animal that may have served as an intermediate host.<sup>1244</sup>

On February 17, WIV researcher Chen Quanjiao, or someone claiming to be Chen, posted on social media that WIV Director Wang Yanyi was responsible for the lab leak, and suggested that the virus transmitted from the lab to the Huanan Seafood Market as a result of Wang selling animals used in experiments to the market for consumption by unknowing customers. By evening, the WIV had put out a written statement in Chen's name claiming that someone had “fabricated this rumor using my name.”<sup>1245</sup> While the claim of lab animals being sold to the market may seem farfetched, such cases have occurred in China.<sup>1246</sup>



## FEBRUARY 2020: THE **CURIOUS** CASE OF HUANG YANLING

Reports that started spreading widely on Chinese social media in January concerning a graduate student at the WIV named Huang Yanling reached a fever pitch by February 15, following reporting on the case by the Beijing News that has since been removed from its website. Huang was believed to be COVID-19's patient zero, who had allegedly died from the illness after an accidental exposure to the novel coronavirus at the WIV.<sup>1247</sup> On February 16, the WIV released a statement on its website denying that Huang was patient zero and claiming that Huang had left the WIV in 2015 upon graduation, had not returned to Wuhan since that time, and was healthy and working in an undisclosed province at the time that the statement was released. The WIV further scrubbed information about Huang from its website, including her profile biography and photo as well as references to her thesis.<sup>1248</sup> The official Xinhua News Agency published the WIV's statement of denial, without added commentary or reporting, and disseminated it on its own social media accounts, presumably to amplify the WIV's efforts to dispel the rumors.<sup>1249</sup>

The WIV's claim that Huang left the institute in 2015 was soon called into question after a photo from the WIV website surfaced on Twitter showing a group of WIV researchers, including Huang and her advisor Wei Hongping, bearing a 2018 timestamp. The photo was promptly removed from the WIV website.<sup>1250</sup> Another state-run media outlet, Red Star News, ran a report claiming that the outlet contacted an unnamed "biological company in Sichuan" where Huang supposedly worked, but the person in charge of her department claimed that Huang declined to be interviewed.<sup>1251</sup> The Red Star News report also appears to have been removed from the paper's website. Some analysts have noted that the CCP's failure to produce Huang herself to quell the rumors was surprising, as the party-state has shown no hesitation to force political prisoners, disgraced officials, and even celebrities to appear in public, often on video, to make statements in support of an official narrative.<sup>1252</sup>

## FEBRUARY 2020: XI JINPING HOLDS **LARGEST** TELECONFERENCE IN CHINA'S HISTORY

On February 23, a high-level meeting was held in Beijing on coordinating the epidemic response and broadcast as a national teleconference to over 170,000 cadres and military personnel around the country.<sup>1253</sup> It was the largest teleconference ever held in China's



history, and all the members of the CCP Politburo Standing Committee were in attendance.<sup>1254</sup> Xi Jinping delivered remarks that revisited themes that he had articulated on February 3 and 14, and in some cases, further elaborated on those themes.

Much as he had done on February 3, Xi began his remarks on this occasion with a full-throated defense of his response to the epidemic. For example, after recounting various meetings he had chaired and orders he had handed down starting on January 7, Xi praised his decision on January 22 to order a strict lockdown of Wuhan: "Making this decision required tremendous political courage, but when the time to act comes, one must act, otherwise one will fail to make a decision when one should and suffer the chaos that ensues."<sup>1255</sup>

The CCP responded so well to the outbreak, thanks to Xi's leadership, that its performance proved the superiority of its political system: "Practice has proved that the CCP Central Committee's judgment on the epidemic situation was correct, various work deployments were timely, and the measures taken were effective and powerful. The results achieved by the prevention and control work have once again put on full display the outstanding advantages of the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the socialist system with Chinese characteristics."<sup>1256</sup>

On the other hand, Xi continued to express concern about unspecified shortcomings:

In the response to this epidemic, the obvious shortcomings in our country's system and mechanisms for major epidemic prevention and control, as well as its public health emergency management system, were exposed. We must review and sum up our experiences to absorb the lessons.... [W]e must pay special attention to making up for our shortcomings, patching holes that leak, and fortifying the weak spots to improve our capabilities and raise the level of our response to sudden and major public health incidents.... [W]e must truly solve the problem at the germination stage before a fire breaks out.<sup>1257</sup>

Concerns about medical supplies, such as PPE, continued to feature prominently: "Fourth, we must strengthen the emergency supply of medical goods and materials and daily necessities. Fighting the blockade warfare of epidemic prevention and control is, in reality, a logistical support war. We have taken active measures to support the manufacturers of medical protective clothing, face masks, and other urgently needed

medical materials for epidemic prevention and control to quickly resume operations and reach production [quotas]....”<sup>1258</sup>

Xi called for research into the coronavirus to ensure that response measures would succeed: “As a newly emergent infectious disease, our knowledge of the novel coronavirus remains relatively rudimentary. It is necessary to integrate multi-disciplinary strengths to launch a scientific research campaign to storm the strategic pass, strengthen theoretical research on the source of infection and the pathogenic mechanism of transmission.... We must intensify efforts to research and develop medicines and vaccines....”<sup>1259</sup> Xi pointed to the CCP’s adept use of its stability maintenance apparatus as a key to their response to the epidemic: “We have promoted social security and stability, properly handled various problems that could arise in the course of epidemic prevention and control, maintained order in the medical system and order in the market, strictly cracked down on epidemic-related crimes, and strengthened psychological counseling and intervention for the masses.”<sup>1260</sup> Xi seemed particularly satisfied with the performance of the CCP’s propaganda system, both inside and outside of China:

We have redoubled our efforts at propaganda and public opinion work, planned as a whole for both online and offline [information controls], domestic and international, on minor matters and major issues, and created an atmosphere that strengthened confidence, warmed people’s hearts, and unified the people’s minds. We standardized and improved information release mechanisms, widely disseminated the decisions and deployments of the Party Central Committee, fully reported on the effectiveness of joint prevention and control measures of various regions and departments, and vividly narrated the touching stories from the frontline of epidemic prevention and control. We spread knowledge of epidemic prevention and control far and wide, and guided the people to view the epidemic in a correct and rational manner.... We responded promptly to the concerns of society..., did not avoid contradictions, and actively promoted the resolution of problems. We improved and strengthened propaganda to the outside world, used various forms to speak out in a timely manner in the international public opinion forums, told China’s story of combatting the epidemic well, and promptly exposed the words and deeds of some people with ulterior motives who sought to slander, smear, and stir up trouble by rumormongering....<sup>1261</sup>

**FEBRUARY 2020: PLA FILES CHINA'S FIRST PATENT APPLICATION FOR COVID-19 VACCINE**

On February 24, Zhou Yusen, a virologist at the PLA AMMS Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology, led a team of 11 researchers that filed a patent application with the PRC National Intellectual Property Administration for a COVID-19 vaccine, becoming the first in China to do so.<sup>1262</sup> The application indicated that the patent rights would belong to two organizations, the PLA AMMS Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology where Zhou worked and a biopharmaceutical firm in Beijing called JOINN Biologics.<sup>1263</sup> The vaccine was developed under the auspices of an “emergency project” authorized by the MOST, according to JOINN Biologics.<sup>1264</sup>

Zhou’s filing came only 35 days after the PRC authorities admitted to the public that human-to-human transmission was occurring, only 46 days after they had confirmed that the causative agent of the pneumonia outbreak was a novel coronavirus, and only 55 days since their first public acknowledgment that a pneumonia outbreak had been detected. The genomic sequence used in the patent, which remains unexploited insofar as can be determined through the available literature, may represent the earliest available sequence of SARS-CoV-2.

Based on the methodology that Zhou’s team used to develop the vaccine and the three experiments conducted to complete the underlying study, U.S. experts in vaccinology and immunology consulted during this study estimated that a minimum of 12-16 weeks lead time (three to four months) would have been required to conduct the necessary technical and animal experimentation to prepare this patent application for submission by February 24. This estimated timeline places the beginning of Zhou’s research in early November 2019 at the latest, perhaps as early as mid-October.

Readers will recall that on November 27, 2019, Zhou and three other PLA researchers, in partnership with a team that included Shi Zhengli and Chen Jing of the WIV, submitted a paper for publication that examined the issue of antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) of viral entry into human cells.<sup>1265</sup> ADE is a major topic of concern for the development of vaccines and therapeutics, and as such, this work could have contributed to Zhou’s development of a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2. This seems particularly likely when one considers that Zhou’s vaccine targets the receptor-binding domain of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, and his joint study with the WIV likewise



explored how a neutralizing monoclonal antibody, which targets the receptor-binding domain of the spike protein of the MERS coronavirus, mediates viral entry.<sup>1266</sup>

When asked about the vaccine development timeline at a press conference on February 15, Yan Jinghua, a senior researcher at the state-run CAS Institute of Microbiology also pointed to the usefulness of prior MERS research to the efforts to develop a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2:

Our unit is a Chinese Academy of Sciences team, and the work we have undertaken is [to develop] a recombinant protein vaccine. Recombinant protein vaccines remove the genes of the most effective antigen component of a pathogen, and recombine them in vitro until they express the protein, and then turn it into a vaccine. This [type of] vaccine does not require a [specialized] site [for experimentation], such as is the case for an inactivated vaccine with viral characteristics, which requires a site with a corresponding biosafety level. At present, progress on this vaccine is going very smoothly. Our team has been working on a MERS vaccine for the past two years, and we have achieved some good results in the vaccine design process. After the arrival of the novel coronavirus, we quickly used these tactics and methods in the design of the novel coronavirus vaccine. Currently we have already finished the design of this vaccine, now we are already conducting tests in animals to see its immunogenic effect, and then we must conduct a safety evaluation. At present the work we are also in the process of doing is researching and developing the production technology [for the vaccine].<sup>1267</sup>

Like the CAS vaccine development effort described above by Yan, the vaccine for which Zhou and his team sought a patent was also a recombinant protein vaccine.<sup>1268</sup> It is thus significant that Yan drew a line of continuity between prior work on MERS, which both she and Zhou had conducted as recently as 2019, and the hurried efforts to develop vaccines for SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1269</sup> It is unclear whether Yan's team collaborated with Zhou's team directly or worked on a similar vaccine model independently of them. It is possible that their research efforts were separate and distinct, as Yan and another senior official noted that multiple lines of effort were undertaken involving at least five different vaccine models.<sup>1270</sup> Three of the 11 researchers (Zhou and two others from AMMS) who submitted the patent application on February 24, however, also appeared as coauthors

of the MERS paper submitted for publication in November 2019.<sup>1271</sup> This overlap suggests some degree of continuity between the two projects.

Like the WIV, the Institute of Microbiology in Beijing where Yan works belongs to the CAS, and it is thus plausible that Yan's institute could have been working with the WIV on vaccine development. We know that General Chen Wei led an AMMS team to the WIV to work on vaccines no later than January 2020, and Zhou and his two AMMS colleagues worked with the WIV's Shi Zhengli and Chen Jing on the MERS study prior to its submission for publication in November 2019. Yan Jinghua was not a contributor to that paper, but she does have historical connections to the PLA AMMS, as she received her doctorate from the AMMS Institute of Bioengineering in 2004.<sup>1272</sup>

#### **FEBRUARY 2020: CCDCP PROHIBITS SHARING VIRUS DATA, IMPOSES PRE-PUBLICATION APPROVAL**

On February 24, the CCDCP issued an "urgent notice" to all of its departments and offices around the country regarding requirements for reporting and publishing research results and sharing data related to the novel coronavirus in keeping with "important speeches and important instructions" from Xi Jinping.<sup>1273</sup> One day later, the CCDCP released "supplemental regulations" that put into place a new approval process to "strictly standardize" central government supervision of novel coronavirus publications. The supplemental regulations stipulated that research papers must be reviewed and approved by the CCDCP Office of Science and Technology before being submitted for outside publication. Researchers were informed that "if necessary," their projects may need higher level approval from the CCDCP Emergency Leading Group or the Department of Science and Education at the National Health Commission.<sup>1274</sup>

The regulations outright discouraged research into the novel coronavirus, telling the CCDCP researchers to "not focus on publishing papers until after the epidemic is under control." They ordered that studies already submitted for publication without pre-approval should be retracted immediately. It further prohibited CCDCP staff from sharing any "data, biological specimens, pathogens, cultures" or other information related to the pandemic with other institutions or individuals.<sup>1275</sup> To stress the seriousness of these rules, the directive made clear that not only would individual violators be "dealt with severely," but their entire research units would also be held

accountable. The CCDCP Office of Science and Technology was also charged with conducting a preliminary review of all new research projects related to the pandemic.<sup>1276</sup>

#### FEBRUARY 2020: SECURITY CHIEF CALLS FOR **CRACKDOWN** ON VIRUS-RELATED "RUMORS"

On February 24, State Councilor and CCP Central Committee Member Zhao Kezhi, who at the time served concurrently as Minister of Public Security, gave a speech at a deployment meeting in which public security forces around China received orders pertaining to their "work on preventing and controlling the novel coronavirus pneumonia epidemic and safeguarding political security and social stability."<sup>1277</sup> Zhao's lengthy comments betrayed a heightened concern about possible threats to the CCP's hold on power and framed control and censorship of information pertaining to the epidemic as a critical component of safeguarding political security: "Zhao Kezhi demanded that from the beginning to the end, [we] must place the highest priority on safeguarding political security, strictly prevent and resolutely attack the internal and external hostile forces' use of the epidemic to carry out all kinds of disturbing and damaging activities. [We also must p]romptly detect and dispose of various types of online rumors and harmful information to resolutely defend the political security of the state."<sup>1278</sup>

#### FEBRUARY 2020: NPC **EXPANDS BAN** ON WILDLIFE TRADE

On February 24, the NPC Standing Committee decided to impose a "full ban" on illegal wildlife trade, which would entail "completely prohibiting" the hunting, trading, and transportation of terrestrial animals that naturally grow and breed in the wild for the purpose of consumption. It also prohibited the consumption of terrestrial wild animals "of important ecological, scientific, and social value" that are under state protection as well as other terrestrial wild animals, including those that are bred or reared in captivity.<sup>1279</sup> While the decision did not explicitly identify the illegal wildlife trade as playing a role in the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2, it did mention the prevention of "major public health risks" as one reason for the more expansive ban.<sup>1280</sup>

The PRC Wildlife Protection Law, which was first enacted in 1988 and revised in 2016, already prohibited the hunting, killing, selling, and purchasing of 1,800 rare and endangered animals unless special permission is granted by the authorities.<sup>1281</sup> After the SARS epidemic in 2003, officials banned and culled civets in large numbers once it was discovered that they were the likely intermediary species that transferred the virus to the



human population. The selling of snakes was also briefly banned in Guangzhou municipality after SARS. Over time these animals once again came to feature in dishes in certain areas of China.<sup>1282</sup>

#### FEBRUARY 2020: JOURNALIST LI ZEHUA **DISAPPEARS** IN WUHAN

When citizen journalist Chen Qiushi vanished on February 6 after posting videos online reporting on the conditions he observed in Wuhan, Li Zehua, a former journalist at the state-run broadcaster CCTV, was inspired to travel to Wuhan to continue Chen's work. Li's investigative reports included videos in which he disguised himself as an applicant looking for employment at crematoriums in Wuhan in order to meet with recruiters and gather evidence of the actual death toll, which well exceeded official claims.<sup>1283</sup> On February 26, after posting a video online in which he had visited the campus of the WIV, Li livestreamed as he was being chased in his vehicle by state security agents. He went missing thereafter.<sup>1284</sup> Li resurfaced about two months later (April 23) in a video in which he said he had been in "quarantine" for visiting "sensitive epidemic areas," which was likely a veiled reference to the WIV.<sup>1285</sup> Details of Li's current conditions were unknown at the time of writing, as he has stayed out of the public eye since April 2020.<sup>1286</sup>

#### FEBRUARY 2020: **DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN** BEGINS TO PLACE ORIGIN OUTSIDE OF CHINA

On February 27, Zhong Nanshan, the octogenarian respiratory disease specialist who came out of retirement to advise the NHC on its response to COVID-19,<sup>1287</sup> and who was the first official to acknowledge person-to-person transmission on January 20,<sup>1288</sup> started sowing seeds of doubt around the origin of SARS-CoV-2. Other PRC officials would continue to nurture those seeds for many months to come by repeatedly suggesting that the outbreak did not begin in China. Zhong told a press conference held in Guangzhou municipality: "Though COVID-19 was first discovered in China, it does not mean that it originated in China." He went on to add: "This is a human disease, not a national disease."<sup>1289</sup>

#### MARCH 2020: XI VISITS PLA AMMS, **LINKS** INFECTIOUS DISEASE TO BIOSAFETY RISKS

On the afternoon of March 2, Xi Jinping visited the headquarters of the PLA AMMS in Beijing to inspect its research work on combatting the pandemic. Xi's remarks to the AMMS were not published, either in whole or in part, but a few details of Xi's visit were

discussed in an official Xinhua report on March 2<sup>1290</sup> and a March 15 Qiushi report of his remarks to Tsinghua University later that same day.<sup>1291</sup> Xi listened to reports on the progress of AMMS research, including drug discovery and the development of vaccines and antibodies. AMMS officials described the academy's ongoing research on the pathology and transmission mechanisms of the novel coronavirus as well as development of rapid testing for the virus.

Xi Jinping emphasized that technology would be the key to improving the rate of recovery from infection, reducing the mortality rate, and ultimately overcoming the virus. He praised the AMMS for its compliance with the demands of the CCP Central Committee and the Central Military Commission and expressed hope that the AMMS would succeed at quickly and safely developing a vaccine. Xi also told the AMMS that the battle against the coronavirus was an opportunity to develop indigenous innovation and intellectual property pertaining the key and core technologies.

Later that same afternoon on March 2, Xi delivered remarks to a roundtable of experts at Tsinghua University, which were reported by Qiushi. He mentioned the AMMS visit during his remarks and some of the content may have also been discussed at AMMS. Xi made some interesting comments about tracing the origin of the pandemic, suggesting that the task might prove too arduous and fail to yield clear answers:

Research into the origin of the virus and its routes of transmission must be planned as a whole to gain clarity on where this virus came from and where it is going. Exactly as the experts have said, this time the virus causing the pandemic has proven to be very cunning, and it is very difficult to trace its source. At the same time, the development of new technologies provides new means for tracing the source of viruses, [such as] using the binding characteristics of viral proteins and different [cellular] receptors to assess the possibility that suspected animals could be the intermediate host, and using artificial intelligence, big data, and other new technologies to carry out epidemiological and tracing surveys to improve accuracy and screening efficiency. Research on tracing the origin of the virus and its transmission routes is critically important to the prevention and control of the entire pandemic, and we must put all of our energy into understanding it.<sup>1292</sup>

Xi also continued to stress his view that national security is inseparable from biosecurity/biosafety: “Major infectious diseases and biosafety/biosecurity risks

constitute serious risks and challenges to national security, national development, and to the overall stability of society. We must make biosecurity/biosafety an important part of a holistic approach to national security, adhering to the integration of peacetime and wartime [efforts], the integration of prevention and emergency response, and the integration of scientific research and medical treatment and prevention....”<sup>1293</sup> Among the areas for capacity building, Xi pointed to “improving early warning and forecasting mechanisms for epidemic prevention and control, timely and effective information gathering, and timely adoption of countermeasures.”<sup>1294</sup> Xi also continued to reiterate his call for indigenous innovation in key and core technologies in order to reduce China’s dependency on international suppliers, an expectation that the CCP has continually impressed upon the state-run CAS, including the WIV:

It is necessary to improve the new nationwide system for tackling key and core technologies, accelerate the deployment of scientific research forces in the fields of population health and biosecurity/biosafety, integrate national key scientific research systems in the life sciences, biotechnology, medicine, health, medical equipment, and other fields...[,] strengthen basic research in the fields of the life sciences and make breakthroughs in key and core technologies in medical health.... It is further necessary to speed up efforts to address the shortcomings in our country's high-end medical equipment, speed up research on key and core technologies, break through the bottlenecks with these types of technical equipment, and realize [the goal of] independent control of high-end medical equipment.<sup>1295</sup>

#### **MARCH 2020: POLITICAL SCREENING PROCESS FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS IS FORMALIZED**

On March 3, the PRC State Council issued a confidential directive to all agencies and offices involved in the R&D response to the pandemic called the “Notice on the Standardization of the Management of the Release of Findings and Information from the Scientific Research Offensive Campaign against the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia.”<sup>1296</sup> It announced the formation of a task force under the State Council that would screen scientific papers and other publications related to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 before they could be released. It bore the marking “not to be made public.”<sup>1297</sup> A general prohibition against sharing information related to the novel coronavirus without state authorization was contained in a confidential circular issued by the NHC on January 3.<sup>1298</sup>



This State Council directive not only raised the level of authority (NHC is subordinate to the State Council) behind that prohibition and doubled down on it, but also formalized its application specifically to research papers by requiring scientists and others not under NHC's purview to seek approval from the State Council's task force prior to publication. This directive was reportedly ordered directly by Xi Jinping.<sup>1299</sup>

The scope of the directive was sweeping. It applied to all research and information related to the coronavirus, but singled out information potentially related to its origin as a specific concern:

All publication work on epidemic prevention research and information related to the novel coronavirus, including therapeutic drugs, vaccines, the origin of the virus, the transmission routes of the virus, testing reagents, and so on, will be incorporated into the unified deployment of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council's Scientific Research Group for the Offensive Campaign Against the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic (thereafter the scientific research group). The scientific research group is charged with overall planning and coordination of the publication of information and findings from the emergency offensive campaign and will direct and coordinate the release of information on scientific research by all work units in all locations.<sup>1300</sup>

In case that was not clear enough, the directive raised the level of specificity: "During the period of epidemic prevention and control, all universities, research institutions, medical institutions, [state-owned and private] enterprises, and their personnel shall not arbitrarily publish information on scientific research findings related to epidemic prevention and control without [State Council] approval."<sup>1301</sup>

The heavy political overlay of the process was evident in its placement of the CCP's propaganda apparatus in charge of communicating findings to the public and its requirement that research results be released exclusively through official channels before submission to professional journals: "In principle, the first public release of research findings and information related to the novel coronavirus pneumonia should be in the authoritative form of an official government release. The special group on public opinion should strengthen communication with the propaganda team, integrate the dynamic state of public sentiment and concerns of society [into their work], and strengthen guidance of the publication of scientific research and information."<sup>1302</sup> The directive

closed with a warning to those who failed to heed its requirements: “Those who fail to apply for approval in accordance with the prescribed procedures, and instead release false scientific research findings and information that have not been verified, thereby causing serious adverse social effects, will be held accountable.”<sup>1303</sup>

#### MARCH 2020: **ORIGIN DISINFORMATION** CAMPAIGN KICKS INTO FULL GEAR

Starting in March and continuing for months to come, PRC officials intensified their efforts to sow doubt about the origin of the novel coronavirus, suggesting repeatedly that the origin may not be found in China, or that it was brought to China from abroad, and casting aspersions on those who asked questions about whether a research-related incident could have caused the initial outbreak. On March 4, Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a press conference: “It is highly irresponsible for [sections of the] media to dub it the ‘China’s virus.’ We firmly oppose that [as] no conclusion has been reached yet on the origin of the virus, as relevant tracing work is still underway. We should focus on containing it and avoid stigmatizing language toward certain places.”<sup>1304</sup>

On March 12, both Zhao Lijian and Hua Chunying, Zhao’s boss at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stepped up the rhetorical campaign to shape the international narrative around the pandemic, much of which took place on Twitter, a social media platform that is banned in China. The pair called it “absolutely wrong” to identify the novel coronavirus with China, and seized on comments made by Robert Redfield, then director of U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to the effect that some early COVID-19 cases were likely misdiagnosed as influenza, to argue for a U.S. origin. Zhao went on to plant the false notion that the U.S. military brought the virus to Wuhan during the Military World Games in October 2019.<sup>1305</sup>

#### MARCH 2020: **FAMOUS TYCOON DISAPPEARS** AFTER CRITICIZING XI’S RESPONSE TO OUTBREAK

On March 6, an article written in the name of Ren Zhiqiang was circulated online. Ren is a close, lifelong confidant of Vice President Wang Qishan and a billionaire real estate tycoon with a reputation for a straight-talking manner who hails from a CCP princeling family. Ren had more than 37 million followers on the Chinese social media platform called Weibo at the time. The article criticized Xi Jinping’s performance at the February

23 national teleconference that he held with 170,000 cadres and military personnel and described Xi as a “clown stripped naked who still wants to be the emperor.”<sup>1306</sup>

On March 13, Ren’s friends said that he had “vanished,” and on April 7, the Beijing Municipal Commission for Discipline Inspection announced that Ren was under investigation for “serious violations of law and discipline.”<sup>1307</sup> This was not the first time that the outspoken Ren, who is nicknamed “Cannon Ren,” had dared to criticize Xi in public. In 2016, government censors blocked Ren’s social media accounts after he said that since the state-owned media are funded by the taxpayers, they should serve the taxpayers, not the CCP – a comment that was in direct opposition to Xi’s renewed campaign to further strengthen party control over the media.<sup>1308</sup>

**MARCH 2020: VICE PREMIER VISITS WUHAN, RESIDENTS SHOUT “FAKE! FAKE! IT’S ALL FAKE!”**

On the morning of March 6, Vice Premier Sun Chunlan visited a residential community called the Kaiyuan Gongguan Estate located in the Qingshan District of Wuhan to inspect the work of local officials charged with the distribution of daily necessities to households in a city under strict lockdown. As Sun walked with local officials through a courtyard between residential buildings, quarantined residents shouted from windows above: “Fake! Fake! It’s all fake,” referring to official claims about the state of the outbreak and the services and goods being provided to residents.<sup>1309</sup> According to state broadcaster CCTV, Sun held a meeting with local officials immediately after the incident in order to deal with the complaints.<sup>1310</sup>

**MARCH 2020: SHI ZHENGLI AGAIN DENIES SARS-COV-2 IS “MAN-MADE”**

On March 9, one day before Xi Jinping visited Wuhan, the leading coronavirus expert at the WIV, Shi Zhengli, participated in a live webcast in which she once again denied that SARS-CoV-2 was “man-made.” Shi further claimed that the Pro-Arg-Arg-Ala amino acid insert found in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 could be found in other bat coronaviruses, which she suggested disproved the lab leak hypothesis.<sup>1311</sup> Southern Metropolis Daily in Guangzhou Municipality ran a story the same day citing Chinese scientists who questioned Shi’s claim and asserted that the molecular structure of SARS-CoV-2 revealed traces of an “artificial insertion.”<sup>1312</sup> The polybasic furin cleavage site found in the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 is widely regarded by virologists as the virus’



most intriguing molecular feature, and contrary to Shi's claim, such a site has never been observed in another SARS-related coronavirus of the sarbecovirus lineage.<sup>1313</sup>

**MARCH 2020: XI JINPING VISITS WUHAN (AND WIV?) FOR FIRST TIME SINCE THE OUTBREAK**

On March 10, Xi Jinping visited Wuhan for the first time since the PRC authorities acknowledged the pneumonia outbreak in late December. The segments of his itinerary that were disclosed to the public included a morning visit to the Huoshenshan Hospital, which was reportedly constructed by the PLA in just 10 days in January, where he talked with medical staff who were dressed in military uniforms, and a stop by a residential community to talk with CCP volunteers on the street. Xi reportedly waved to the residents who were quarantined in their buildings.<sup>1314</sup> Xi declared that Wuhan had turned a corner: "There has been a promising turn in epidemic containment in Hubei and Wuhan, and we've achieved important interim results."<sup>1315</sup>

What may have been the most significant segment of Xi's visit is the one that may have been omitted from public reporting. On March 6, a newspaper in Hong Kong, citing a source in Beijing, reported that Xi would soon travel to Wuhan, and that his itinerary would include an "inspection" of the WIV, a visit to a local hospital, and a stop at a residential community.<sup>1316</sup> State-owned media reports of Xi's actual visit highlighted his stops at a hospital and a residential community, but made no mention of an inspection of the WIV. We do not know if the inspection occurred and was omitted from reporting, or if it was removed from Xi's schedule. Readers will recall that Xi had last traveled to Wuhan to attend the opening ceremony of the Military World Games on October 19, 2019,<sup>1317</sup> which is also when rumors of a deadly new virus in Wuhan began to spread among Chinese officialdom.<sup>1318</sup>

**MARCH 2018: CENSORS DELETE WUHAN DOCTOR'S INTERVIEW WITH CHINESE MAGAZINE**

On March 10, Dr. Ai Fen, the director of the emergency room at the Wuhan Central Hospital, gave an interview to a Chinese magazine called Renwu in which she described how officials silenced and reprimanded her for "spreading rumors" after she shared with her colleagues and the health authorities a diagnostic report showing a patient with a SARS-like coronavirus in late December. Officials told Ai not to say anything to anyone, not even her husband, and to instruct all the staff in her department to not disclose

anything about the virus either.<sup>1319</sup> Censors quickly deleted the article from the magazine's website and social media, though an archived version of the article was saved before it disappeared.<sup>1320</sup> "I am not a whistleblower," Ai told Renwu. "I am the one who provided the whistle."<sup>1321</sup> In the interview, Ai used the word "regret" several times regarding her decision to stay quiet after being reprimanded, especially as she later lost coworkers to the disease: "If I knew then what I know now, I wouldn't have cared whether he [the official] criticized me or not, I would have [expletive] shouted it from the mountain top! You know what I mean?"<sup>1322</sup>

#### MARCH 2020: CLINICAL TRIALS BEGIN FOR VACCINE DEVELOPED BY PLA WORKING AT THE WIV

On March 16, less than a week after Xi Jinping visited Wuhan, the PRC announced that clinical trials had begun on the genetically engineered recombinant adenovirus vaccine developed by the research team of Major General Chen Wei of the Institute of Bioengineering at the PLA AMMS, who had taken over the WIV in January, and CanSino Biologics Inc.<sup>1323</sup> For clinical trials to commence less than two months after Chen reportedly arrived in Wuhan to take charge of the vaccine development project at the WIV, preliminary work on the vaccine must have begun much earlier, almost certainly in 2019 before the outbreak was even acknowledged. Experts consulted for this study assessed that a minimum of two months would be needed to build Chen's vaccine construct before it could be ready for testing in animals, which obviously must precede clinical trials. Such a timeline strongly implies a start date in 2019.

As early as March 4, reports had started circulating on the Chinese web that Major General Chen Wei had developed a vaccine.<sup>1324</sup> Pictures of vaccine vials published by the PLA Daily showed a label that indicated a production date of February 26,<sup>1325</sup> and yet Chen supposedly only arrived in Wuhan sometime between January 26 and January 31.<sup>1326</sup> Needless to say, the notion suggested by the PRC authorities that vaccine development work only began sometime in late January, and yet vials of vaccine were already being produced by February 26, strains credulity, even in emergency conditions with researchers working around the clock.



### MARCH 2020: PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL AND CCP MEDIA AGAIN SUGGEST ORIGIN OUTSIDE OF CHINA

During a press conference on March 18, veteran respiratory specialist Zhong Nanshan repeated the claim that the discovery of the novel coronavirus in Wuhan did not necessarily mean that that virus originated in Wuhan or was first introduced to the human population there.<sup>1327</sup> Readers will recall that Zhong first made this claim in public on February 27.<sup>1328</sup> On March 21, the CCP-owned tabloid paper Global Times ran a story on an interview that Italian scientist Giuseppe Remuzzi had given to National Public Radio on March 19, in which he revealed that medical practitioners in Italy had observed severe pneumonia cases in November 2019 prior to the outbreak being revealed in China.<sup>1329</sup> Global Times misconstrued Remuzzi's comments as suggesting that both the origin of the virus and the site of the initial outbreak were outside of China. Remuzzi later told the Italian newspaper *Il Foglio*: "There is no doubt that the virus is Chinese. This is a textbook example, to be taught in universities, on how scientific information can be manipulated for propaganda reasons."<sup>1330</sup>

### MARCH 2020: DISHONEST REPORTING SCHEME LEADS TO "NO NEW DOMESTIC CASES"

On March 19, PRC authorities trumpeted a victory in the battle against the coronavirus by claiming that no new locally transmitted cases were reported on that day anywhere in China, a first since the pandemic began.<sup>1331</sup> However, a notice posted by local authorities outside a Wuhan residential community on March 19 indicated a new confirmed case lived inside the compound. After a photo of the notice went viral online, questions were raised about why this case was not being recognized in Beijing's official case tally.

Tao Zhengtai, a local CCP leader, later confirmed that the announcement was indeed posted by the relevant authority, but Tao called it a mistake because it referred to a 63-year-old man surnamed Zhang who lived in Wuhan's Qiaokou district, and who had tested positive, but had displayed no symptoms. "Mr. Zhang is asymptomatic, not a confirmed case," Tao told Xinhua.<sup>1332</sup> Qiaokou District authorities who were responsible for posting the announcement also issued a statement saying even if Zhang's nucleic acid test result was positive, "his case should not be classified a confirmed case," in accordance to the guidelines issued by the NHC.<sup>1333</sup> This response by local officials confirmed that one of the ways that central authorities concealed the severity and scope of the outbreak was by excluding asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, and mildly



symptomatic cases altogether from official data, even when they had tested positive for the virus.

**MARCH 2020: FORTUNE OR FOREKNOWLEDGE? VACCINE MAKER'S STOCK RISES IN FALL 2019**

On March 21, Wang Hao, a Chinese economist based in Taiwan, posted an analysis on social media of a peculiar pattern in the stock prices for CanSino Biologics, Inc. This is the vaccine manufacturer that partnered with the PLA AMMS to develop the recombinant adenovirus vaccine for which Beijing was trumpeting the commencement of clinical trials on March 16. Wang found that the price of the company's stocks had fluctuated at roughly HK\$30.00 from the time of its initial listing in March 2019 until it started climbing quickly in October 2019,<sup>1334</sup> which was shortly after the WIV's removal of its online database of pathogens,<sup>1335</sup> its issuance of a tender for a major renovation of its central air conditioning system,<sup>1336</sup> and its participation in a "drill" held at the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport involving the response to a "novel coronavirus."<sup>1337</sup> By December 2019, the stock of CanSino Biologics had nearly doubled in value, and by March 2020, the price of CanSino Biologics stock had increased to HK\$127.00, or more than quadruple its average before September 2019.<sup>1338</sup>

The sudden and apparently inexplicable rise in CanSino Biologics' fortune prompted Wang Hao to ask an obvious question: "Who was buying CanSino Biologics stocks in November 2019?" He discovered that one of the four controlling shareholders of CanSino Biologics became a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in March 2018.<sup>1339</sup> Coincidentally or not, Yuan Zhiming, the director of the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory, is also a member of the conference.<sup>1340</sup> In any case, Wang Hao also pointed out that because it takes about five-to-six months on average to produce vaccines that are ready for clinical trial, it is likely that Major General Chen and her partners at CanSino Biologics "started developing a vaccine after the Wuhan drills in September 2019."<sup>1341</sup>

**MARCH 2020: PRINCELINGS CALL ON CCP TO CONVENE TO "DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF XI JINPING"**

On March 21, Chen Ping, a Shanghainese CCP princeling, reform advocate, and chairman of Sun TV in Hong Kong, shared on his WeChat social media account an anonymous letter from fellow CCP princelings that criticized the leadership of Xi Jinping, both as it

pertained to the coronavirus outbreak as well as a litany of his prior mistakes, and called for an enlarged meeting of the Politburo to be held to “discuss the problem of Xi Jinping.”<sup>1342</sup> The letter stressed that such a meeting was “no less important” than the historic meeting that the CCP convened in 1979 to oust the “Gang of Four” and end the Cultural Revolution, and would be “much more important” than the CCP plenum where Deng Xiaoping rolled out the era of “reform and opening,” the policy that led to China’s three-plus decades of economic growth.<sup>1343</sup>

#### **APRIL 2020: LOCKDOWN IS LIFTED IN WUHAN, WET MARKETS BACK IN BUSINESS**

On April 8, the authorities lifted the strict lockdown in Wuhan that had been first imposed on January 23, and once again allowed movement into and out of the city. While some restrictions and mitigation measures remained in place, April 8 marked the end of the most draconian measures and the return of some degree of normalcy in which shuttered businesses could once again operate and transportation links were restored.<sup>1344</sup> While the Huanan Seafood Market, the site of an early cluster of COVID-19 cases, remained closed, media reports indicated that other wet markets in Wuhan, including its largest, called Baishazhou, were allowed to immediately reopen on April 8, while vendors at some local wet markets reported that they had never closed during the lockdown period and were unaware of any new regulations of wet markets rolled out since the beginning of the outbreak.<sup>1345</sup> A week earlier, journalists observed wet markets elsewhere in China that were also operational and open to the public, including those that were selling live exotic species in the two major cities of Guilin in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Dongguan in Guangdong Province.<sup>1346</sup>

Readers will recall that on February 24, just a month and a half before the lockdown in Wuhan was lifted, the NPC Standing Committee imposed a “full ban” on illegal wildlife trade, which would entail “completely prohibiting” the hunting, trading, and transportation of terrestrial animals that naturally grow and breed in the wild for the purpose of consumption. It also prohibited the consumption of terrestrial wild animals “of important ecological, scientific, and social value” that are under state protection as well as other terrestrial wild animals, including those that are bred or reared in captivity.<sup>1347</sup> The laxity of local officials in enforcing this new ban and the apparent lack of awareness among wet market vendors that new regulations had been promulgated at all suggests that the authorities’ regulatory efforts in this regard were more perfunctory than not. That lack of seriousness also stood in stark contrast to the clear and consistent

acts of regulatory muscle that the party-state was putting into strengthening biosafety practices at laboratories starting in the fall of 2019 and continuing well into 2021.

#### APRIL 2020: AUTHORITIES **ARREST** MEN FOR ARCHIVING INFORMATION RELATED TO EARLY OUTBREAK

On April 19, public security agents detained Chen Mei, a 27-year-old NGO worker who had been archiving and reposting online articles that had been censored pertaining to the early outbreak of COVID-19 in China. He and his friend Cai Wei were charged with the political crime of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble.”<sup>1348</sup> Some of the materials archived and reposted by the two men, such as investigative reporting by Caixin and interviews with Wuhan doctors Li Wenliang and Ai Fen, are featured in this report. To combat PRC state censorship, Chen and Cai created “Terminus 2049,” a crowd-sourced repository for sensitive articles, in 2018 using GitHub, the world’s largest open-source website, favored by many software developers for the ease with which it allows code sharing and collaboration.<sup>1349</sup>

In August 2021, the Chaoyang District People’s Court in Beijing sentenced Chen Mei and Cai Wei to 15 months in prison for their COVID-19 work related to Terminus 2049.<sup>1350</sup> It is interesting that the authorities punished Chen and Cai for archiving and reposting reports pertaining to the novel coronavirus outbreak, but they did not take such action when the duo was doing similar work focused on other censored topics from the time of the launch of Terminus 2049 in 2018 and throughout 2019. This fact suggests that the party-state perceived a higher degree of political risk from allowing unofficial and uncensored reporting of its handling of the COVID-19 outbreak to circulate among Chinese netizens – a risk that exceeded those posed by other routinely censored topics in China.

#### APRIL 2020: XI **SACKS** SECURITY VICE MINISTER FOR DISLOYALTY, COVID-RELATED ACTIONS

On April 19, the CCP Central Commission for Discipline Inspection announced that it had placed Sun Lijun, the vice minister of public security, under investigation for “serious violations of law and regulations.”<sup>1351</sup> Another commission report published in January 2021 gave additional details on Sun’s case that indicated Sun’s transgressions were not merely a matter of corruption, but more importantly, involved political disloyalty. The report said that Sun was among a group of “two-faced people who were



disloyal and dishonest to the Party.”<sup>1352</sup> Such language is used to signify factional infighting inside the CCP. Given Xi Jinping’s elevated and unrivaled status as the “core” leader of the party, it strongly suggested that Sun was being accused of conspiring to undermine Xi. Sun Lijun was affiliated with one of Xi’s rival factions in the CCP, loyalists of the former top leader Jiang Zemin, many of whom have worked in or hail from Shanghai.<sup>1353</sup>

Later state media reporting elaborated on the political disloyalty aspect of Sun’s misconduct. On September 30, 2020, the official Xinhua News Agency reported that Sun had been formally expelled from the Communist Party.<sup>1354</sup> It accused Sun of a number of alleged crimes and violations of political discipline: “In order to achieve his own personal political goals, [Sun] used unscrupulous means and played underhanded tricks, created gangs and recruited people to form factions inside the party, cultivated his own personal forces, formed interest groups that took on the posture of gangs to seize control of critical departments, [thereby] seriously undermining the unity of the party and severely harming political security.”<sup>1355</sup>

For the purposes of this study, it is worth considering the curious fact that Xinhua was also allowed to publish in its Chinese reporting the following description of Sun Lijun’s alleged misconduct related to Beijing’s response to the novel coronavirus outbreak: “In the fight against the novel coronavirus pneumonia epidemic [Sun] abandoned his frontline post without permission and privately collected and released a large amount of classified materials....”<sup>1356</sup> Prior to the announcement of his arrest, Sun was last seen in public escorting Xi Jinping as he visited Wuhan on March 10.<sup>1357</sup> One unofficial account of Sun’s crimes claims that he shared notes of his observations in Wuhan of the party’s handling of the outbreak to his Sydney-based wife, which were intercepted by Australian intelligence agencies.<sup>1358</sup>

Sun Lijun was not the first senior official from the Ministry of Public Security to be sacked by Xi Jinping. Xi has exhibited strong suspicion towards his domestic security apparatus throughout his time at the helm of the party-state. Xi oversaw the sacking and arrests of former Vice Minister of Public Security Li Dongsheng in February 2014,<sup>1359</sup> former czar of internal security and Politburo Standing Committee member Zhou Yongkang in December 2014,<sup>1360</sup> and Vice Minister of Public Security (and Interpol Chief) Meng Hongwei in September 2018.<sup>1361</sup> In October 2021, Minister of Justice Fu Zhenghua,

another former Vice Minister of Public Security, would also be arrested for allegedly being in cahoots with Sun.<sup>1362</sup>

#### APRIL 2020: TWO PLA STUDIES SUGGEST WORK ON COVID-19 VACCINE PREDATED OUTBREAK

In April, several members of the same predominately PLA AMMS research team led by Zhou Yusen that filed China's first patent for a COVID-19 vaccine on February 24 submitted two papers for publication in academic journals that provided further insight into the research process that produced the vaccine. On April 14, 23 researchers led by Zhou, 11 of whom worked for the PLA AMMS, submitted a paper titled, "A Mouse Model of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Pathogenesis."<sup>1363</sup> The team used genetic editing, specifically what is called CRISPR/Cas9 knockin technology, to create mice that expressed the human ACE2 receptor in order to test how the genetically modified mice, as a proxy for humans, would respond to exposure to the virus. They demonstrated that both young and aged mice with human ACE2 sustained higher viral loads in their lungs, trachea, and brains upon intranasal infection than wild-type mice similarly exposed. Interstitial pneumonia and elevated cytokines were also observed in SARS-CoV-2 infected-aged hACE2 mice.<sup>1364</sup>

The research team concluded that the mouse model they developed had proven useful for evaluating COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics,<sup>1365</sup> which suggests that the study was conducted as part of the effort to develop the vaccine for which they filed a patent application on February 24. Experts consulted for this report assessed that the experiment described in "A Mouse Model of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Pathogenesis" could have been completed within four weeks under the best circumstances, including the immediate availability of the mice expressing the human ACE2 receptor. If the process to acquire these mice were slow, or if the mice had to be bred, the timeline would have been much longer. A conservative estimate would then place the beginning of the research for this paper no later than mid-January.

On April 29, however, a research team led by PLA virologist Zhou Yusen submitted another closely related research paper to the journal *Science* titled "Adaptation of SARS-CoV-2 in BALB/c Mice for Testing Vaccine Efficacy." The paper was resubmitted a month later on May 29 and published online on July 30.<sup>1366</sup> This companion paper to "A Mouse Model of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Pathogenesis" revealed a much longer

research timeline. As the vaccine patent filed by Zhou's team on February 24 had initially done, this study further provided a window into a timeline of research that almost certainly began well before the official acknowledgment of an outbreak of "pneumonia of unknown cause" on December 31, 2019. Zhou's research team consisted of 32 researchers in total, 26 of whom worked directly for the AMMS or other PLA institutions.<sup>1367</sup> Nine of the 11 researchers who submitted the COVID-19 vaccine patent with Zhou on February 24 were coauthors of this study.<sup>1368</sup>

Experts consulted for this report assessed that the four experiments described in the "Adaptation of SARS-CoV-2 in BALB/c Mice for Testing Vaccine Efficacy" would have required a minimum of 18 weeks of focused work, or almost five months, to complete. A conservative estimate would then place the beginning of Zhou's vaccine work no later than November 2019. It is also worth noting that Zhou's team had to possess a sequence of the coronavirus in order to develop the receptor binding domain vaccine, which strongly suggests that they already had the sequence when they commenced the work.

To acquire a basic appreciation of the timeline involved, consider the fact that the research conducted for this study required the use of BALB/c mice that were subjected to serial passage (seven to be precise) with SARS-CoV-2 in order to adapt and validate the virus to the mouse. This process alone would have taken a minimum of four weeks, experts assessed. The process to subsequently develop a candidate vaccine that can fuse to human antibodies would take four additional weeks at least. The mice must be immunized at two-week intervals with sera collected from the mice for testing four weeks after initial immunization. The mice would then be challenged two weeks after they had received the last dose of vaccine. The results can finally be assessed seven days later. Several further steps would be needed thereafter to complete the requisite science described in the patent application, which would likely add a few more days to the process.

#### **MAY 2020: STUDY SHOWS UNUSUALLY STRONG BINDING OF SARS-COV-2 TO HUMAN CELLS**

On May 13, a team of Australian and British scientists led by veteran virologist Nikolai Petrovsky released a pre-print of a study comparing the binding affinity of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 to the ACE2 receptor in human cells with the same receptor taken from different species. What they found was surprising: the spike protein of SARS-



CoV-2 exhibited the highest binding to the ACE2 receptor of human cells of all the species tested, which included a wide range of species, from those thought to be potentially involved in first transferring SARS-CoV-2 to humans (bat, snake, pangolin) to those reported to be susceptible or resistant to SARS-CoV-2 infection (tiger, mouse, ferret, hamster, civet, monkey) as well as agricultural and companion animals (cow, horse, cat, and dog).<sup>1369</sup> “This finding was surprising as a zoonotic virus typically exhibits the highest affinity initially for its original host species, with lower initial affinity to receptors of new host species until it adapts,” the authors explained.<sup>1370</sup>

Scientists have speculated that the original reservoir species for SARS-CoV-2 could be horseshoe bats because bats are known to carry many coronaviruses, but the Australian and British team found that SARS-CoV-2 binds rather poorly to ACE2 receptors in bats. It also binds so poorly to palm civet ACE2 (the intermediary host for SARS-CoV-1) that the authors concluded that palm civets could be ruled out as an intermediary candidate for SARS-CoV-2. “To date, a virus directly related to SARS-CoV-2 has not been identified in bats or any other non-human species, leaving its origins unclear,” the team noted.<sup>1371</sup>

The fact that the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 is unusually optimized to bind to human ACE2 receptors is a significant finding that continues to beg for an explanation. In the words of the authors, “There are currently no explanations for how or where such a transition could have occurred to generate a SARS-CoV-2 spike protein optimized for human ACE2.”<sup>1372</sup> The team’s findings boosted the plausibility of a research related origin, as it highlighted oddities of the novel coronavirus that remain difficult to explain on the basis of what is known about how coronaviruses recombine and mutate in nature. In other words, it raised the possibility that the virus was artificially modified in a laboratory to enhance its transmissibility to humans. The implications of these findings received a cold reception in an international scientific community that was engaging in uncharacteristic groupthink on the origin question. As a result, it took more than a year from the release of the preprint before a journal formally published their study, even as other COVID-19 related studies were being rushed through the process and into print.

**MAY 2020: CHINA REPORTS NO NEW CORONAVIRUS CASES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE JANUARY**

On May 23, the NHC reported no new cases – locally transmitted or imported – for the first time since it began to acknowledge coronavirus infections in January. PRC authorities claimed a total of only 84,000 confirmed coronavirus infections nationwide at this point in time, ranking only 13th in the world for total infections. The implausibility of Beijing’s claims became clearer as they stood in stark contrast to reliable data from other countries. The United States, for example, reported 1.6 million infections by that time.<sup>1373</sup>

**MAY 2020: WIV DIRECTOR GENERAL DENIES LAB LEAK WAS SOURCE OF OUTBREAK**

On May 24, Wang Yanyi, the director of the WIV, gave an interview to the official state English broadcaster CGTN.<sup>1374</sup> CGTN began by inaccurately characterizing the lab leak hypothesis as something foreign when, in fact, Chinese citizens were the first to consider the possibility. CGTN said that “since the outbreak of the pandemic, the outside world has all along had [its own particular] voice and way of speaking” about the origin of the novel coronavirus, and asked Wang what she thought of that line of the argument.<sup>1375</sup> Wang replied:

This hypothesis was a pure fabrication. The Wuhan Institute of Virology first came into contact with [the virus] on December 30 of last year, when it was still a clinical sample called “pneumonia of unknown cause.” Later, after pathogen testing, we found that these samples actually contained a completely new coronavirus that was absolutely unknown before, which is now called the novel coronavirus. We had never been exposed to, studied, or stored this virus before then. In fact, we, like everyone else, did not know this virus even existed. How could we leak something that we never had [in our lab]?<sup>1376</sup>

The WIV has offered no documentation to substantiate Wang’s claims about its holdings of viral samples prior to the pandemic, and her claims are completely unverifiable since the WIV took down its relevant online database in September 2019. Even before the database was removed from the public domain, it contained a password protection section specifically for unpublished viral sequences.<sup>1377</sup> In the interview, Wang made another highly questionable claim: namely that Shi Zhengli and her team of researchers had only managed to isolate and culture a total of three bat coronaviruses since they

began this work in 2004, and that those three bore no more than 79.8 percent homology to SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1378</sup>

Before it was taken down, the WIV database reportedly contained more than 2,000 entries consisting of sample and pathogen data, including full and partial genomic sequences, collected from bats and mice. The WIV had reportedly collected more than 15,000 samples from bats, from which they had identified over 1,400 bat viruses, including an estimated 100 unpublished sequences of bat beta-coronaviruses – the genre of coronaviruses to which SARS-CoV-2 belongs.<sup>1379</sup> Wang’s claim that this vast body of field collection work done by Shi’s team over the course of 16 years produced a catalogue of only three live strains of bat coronaviruses at the WIV simply strains credulity. Moreover, the WIV works on classified projects for the PLA and government entities.<sup>1380</sup> One can only presume that the WIV would not be left at liberty to admit to viral holdings that were the subject of classified work.

#### **MAY 2020: GEORGE GAO DECLARES WUHAN MARKET NOT THE SOURCE OF THE OUTBREAK**

On May 26, George Fu Gao, the director-general of the CCDCP, gave an interview to the CCP-run tabloid paper the Global Times in which he ruled out the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan as the source of original human infection of SARS-CoV-2. Gao said that testing of samples from the market failed to show any links between animals being sold there and the emergence of the novel pathogen.<sup>1381</sup> "At first, we assumed the seafood market might have the virus, but now the market is more like a victim. The novel coronavirus had existed long before," Gao reportedly told the Global Times.<sup>1382</sup> Readers will recall that Gao knew this to be the case much earlier, as he had an emotional phone call with Robert Redfield on January 4, in which Gao "became distraught and started crying after finding 'a lot of cases' among individuals who had not been to the wet market," according to Redfield’s account of the conversation.<sup>1383</sup>

Gao’s view has not changed since 2020. In February 2022, a team of 38 of China’s top epidemiologists led by George Gao published a pre-print study examining surveillance data gathered from the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan.<sup>1384</sup> Gao’s team analyzed the results from 1,380 samples collected from the environment (923 samples) and from animals in the market (457 samples) in early 2020 and found that 50 of the environmental samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1385</sup> They concluded that the



presence of SARS-CoV-2 on environmental surfaces was not due to virus-shedding animals being sold in the market but rather the result of infected humans visiting the market. “No virus was detected in the animal swabs covering 18 species of animals in the market,” the team explained.<sup>1386</sup>

Gao’s team surmised that “the market might have acted as an amplifier due to the high number of visitors every day, causing many initially identified infection clusters in the early stage of the outbreak,” but they found no evidence that it was the site of original human infection or zoonotic spillover.<sup>1387</sup> Gao’s team further noted “recent studies from different countries suggest that SARS-CoV-2 circulation preceded the initial detection of cases by weeks.”<sup>1388</sup>

#### **MAY-JUNE 2020: PLA VIROLOGIST DIES UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES**

Sometime in late May or early June 2020, Zhou Yusen died under unusual and mysterious circumstances.<sup>1389</sup> Zhou was the virologist and vaccinologist at the PLA AMMS Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology who collaborated with the WIV on coronavirus research in 2019,<sup>1390</sup> and who lead a team that became the first in China to submit a patent for a COVID-19 vaccine on February 24, 2020.<sup>1391</sup> Zhou was reportedly around 54 years old at the time of death and had no known illnesses. No PRC media reports disclosed the cause of his death. In fact, there was no contemporaneous confirmation of his death at all, which is why the exact date of his death could not be established through publicly available sources.

The state-run and party-run media in China, including military media outlets, simply did not acknowledge Zhou’s death. It is highly unusual for the PRC official press, particularly military outlets such as the PLA Daily, to not mark the passing of a decorated PLA scientist, particularly who one had just led a team that developed a vaccine for COVID-19.<sup>1392</sup> Only one Chinese website acknowledged Zhou’s death – a July 31 report on the science website MedSci summarized a study that Zhou and several other PLA researchers published in the English language journal *Science* on July 30.<sup>1393</sup> Only a one-word parenthetical note appeared indicating that Zhou was “deceased” in both the Chinese and English reports; no further information was provided.<sup>1394</sup> Members of Zhou’s research team published another study in March 2021 that they dedicated to Zhou: “This article is in memory of Prof. Yusen Zhou for his contributions to the project conception and article design.”<sup>1395</sup>

The CCP, its military, and the government of China that it controls, by contrast, not only refrained from marking Zhou's death without explanation, but it appears that they also went to some lengths to erase historical references to him. The aforementioned July 30 report in MedSci could only be found in a cache version online, as the article itself appears to have been removed from the website. All references to Zhou have been removed from the PLA Daily website. All but one reference has been removed from the WIV website.<sup>1396</sup>

Zhou's work appears to be an important piece of the puzzle that we seek to solve, and his untimely and mysterious death only underscores the likelihood that he played a role in, or otherwise had direct knowledge of, how the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 began. As discussed earlier in this report, judging from the methodology used by Zhou's team to develop their recombinant protein vaccine, it is likely that his team would have needed a minimum of three months to carry out their experiments as described and to prepare the patent application for submission by February 24. If this estimate is correct, and it is based on conversations with accomplished vaccinologists, work on Zhou's vaccine began no later than November 2019, perhaps as early as October – well before the authorities disclosed anything about the existence of a novel coronavirus, but precisely within the period in which we have observed signs of heightened official scrutiny of the WIV. Another study that Zhou's team submitted for publication on April 29,<sup>1397</sup> approximately one month before his death, revealed a timeline of related research that likewise appears to have begun long before the official acknowledgment of an outbreak at the end of December 2019.

#### **JUNE 2020: CHINESE SCIENTISTS ASK NIH TO DELETE VIRUS SEQUENCES FROM DATABASE**

On an unspecified date in June, researchers based in Wuhan requested that the NIH delete a set of partial genomic sequences taken from early coronavirus cases in Wuhan that had been submitted to a scientific database maintained by the NIH's National Center for Biotechnology Information called the Sequence Read Archive, which is regularly consulted by researchers around the globe. The deletion was requested ostensibly because the sequences had been updated and would be posted elsewhere.<sup>1398</sup> The Chinese scientists did not specify to which database the updated sequences would be posted, and an extensive search by a virologist a year later could not locate the deleted sequences in any other public database, though they had been cited in two papers

produced between the time when the sequences were first submitted to the NIH in March 2020 and their subsequent deletion in June 2020.<sup>1399</sup>

Researchers associated with the Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University collected the samples from which the deleted sequences were derived. The pre-print produced by this research team on March 4, 2020, referenced the sequences and indicated that they were derived from “45 nasopharyngeal swab samples from outpatients with suspected COVID-19 early in the epidemic.”<sup>1400</sup> Readers will recall that on March 3, just one day prior to the release of this pre-print, the PRC State Council issued a confidential directive to all agencies and offices involved in the R&D response to the pandemic announcing a requirement that scientific papers related to SARS-CoV-2 be screened by a State Council task force before they could be published.<sup>1401</sup> By the time the final manuscript of the Wuhan University study was published in June, the description of the samples had been changed to add the date “January 2020” in parentheses after the phrase “early in the epidemic,”<sup>1402</sup> lest anyone wonder if the samples could have predated 2020.

The possible relevance of the deleted sequences to the question of the origin of SARS-CoV-2 pertains to whether these sequences could reveal more about the initial evolution of the virus than was knowable from the paucity of early sequences released by PRC authorities to date. Experts’ attempts to use the methods of genomic epidemiology, such as phylogenetic analysis of the earliest sequences, to infer the progenitor virus of SARS-CoV-2 have been confounded thus far by the paucity of data from early samples, and an unusual fact pattern that emerged from the small number of available early sequences: the earliest known SARS-CoV-2 sequences, which were mostly derived from the Huanan Seafood Market, are significantly more different from the bat coronaviruses that are universally believed to be the deep ancestors of SARS-CoV-2 than some sequences collected at later dates outside of Wuhan.<sup>1403</sup> The earliest sequences should be the closest in genomic structure to their progenitor. As a virus mutates over time, it gradually becomes more distant from its progenitor, not the other way around.

One clear conclusion that Dr. Jessie Bloom, the virologist who unearthed the deleted sequences was able to draw from them, may suggest why they were deleted in the first place: “The Huanan Seafood Market sequences that were the focus of the joint WHO-China report (WHO 2021) are not representative of all SARS-CoV-2 in Wuhan early in the epidemic.”<sup>1404</sup> In other words, the sequences released to the international



community by PRC authorities provided only a partial picture of SARS-CoV-2 as it was circulating in Wuhan in the relatively early days of the outbreak, which were likely not the earliest days of the outbreak.

China is not lacking in facilities capable of conducting genomic sequencing of viruses; the paucity of early data cannot be explained by a capacity issue. The lack of genomic sequences raises questions about whether the PRC authorities released early sequences selectively, and perhaps in a manner intended to manufacture mystery around the origin. Such an effort would explain why the NHC ordered that virus samples be destroyed or transferred to designated storage facilities on January 3.<sup>1405</sup> Bloom's assessment of the value of the deleted sequences, which were only partial after all, strongly suggests that had the NHC not destroyed early samples, but rather sequenced their genomes fully and released that information to the international community in a transparent manner, we would likely know far more about the initial outbreak and its origin than we currently do:

The fact that such an informative data set was deleted has implications beyond those gleaned directly from the recovered sequences. Samples from early outpatients in Wuhan are a gold mine for anyone seeking to understand the spread of the virus. Even my analysis of the partial sequences is revealing, and it clearly would have been more scientifically informative to fully sequence the samples rather than surreptitiously delete the partial sequences. There is no plausible scientific reason for the deletion....<sup>1406</sup>

#### JUNE 2020: XI JINPING AGAIN SPEAKS OF "SHORTCOMINGS" IN PUBLIC HEALTH SPEECH

On June 2, Xi Jinping once again delivered remarks on the coronavirus pandemic to a roundtable of experts. His remarks were not published until more than three months later on September 15. His remarks continued to demonstrate concern about systematic "shortcomings,"<sup>1407</sup> even well after he had declared China's victory in the "people's war" against the virus.<sup>1408</sup> Xi also continued to strike a somewhat defensive tone, going out of his way to portray his response to the outbreak as aggressive and decisive.

Interestingly, Xi went so far as to rehash remarks that he made more than two years prior to show that he foresaw the threat long before the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2: "In January 2018, at the opening ceremony of the special seminar to study and carry out the

spirit of the 19th Party Congress, I mentioned 16 risks in 8 areas. Among them, I particularly said, ‘...[We] must also be on the alert for at all times [and] strictly guard against [SARS-like major infectious viruses].’”<sup>1409</sup> It appears that the text of this January 2018 speech has never been published in full, and the official summary published by Xinhua on the day that the speech was delivered did not include the quote that Xi cited above.<sup>1410</sup>

Xi continued to reiterate themes that he stressed in February: “Since the outbreak of the epidemic, I have repeatedly proposed that while we must do a good job with epidemic prevention and control, we must also take a long-term perspective, review our experiences, and absorb the lessons. In response to the problems and deficiencies exposed during the course of epidemic prevention and control, we should pay close attention to making up for the shortcomings, patching holes that leak, and fortifying the weak spots.”<sup>1411</sup> Xi described the development of core technologies as a key to combatting infectious diseases, called for more measures to develop scientific talent, and once again drew a link between biosafety and public health:

The major scientific and technological achievements in the areas of protecting human lives, biosafety, and biosecurity are important assets to the nation, which we must hold in our own hands. We need to expand the application of technology in the public health arena, accelerate and improve the integration of wartime and peacetime systems for scientific research offensive campaigns [to support] disease prevention, control, and public health, focus our energy on offensive campaigns to develop core technologies, and continue to increase funding and investments for major disease prevention, to quickly make up for our nation’s shortcomings in the life sciences, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, public health, and medical equipment. Now, we must bring into effect the advantages of our nationwide system, compete to be the first to successfully develop coronavirus vaccines, and fight to take the strategic lead. We need to deepen the reform of our system and mechanisms for developing scientific research talent, to improve the discovery, cultivation, and incentive mechanisms for innovative scientists of strategic value, attract more talent to join scientific research corps, and create the conditions for them to rise above the others.<sup>1412</sup>

**JULY 2020: ACADEMIC CRITIC OF XI JINPING ARRESTED AND TERMINATED BY UNIVERSITY**

On July 6, public security agents in Beijing showed up at the home of Xu Zhangrun, an outspoken professor of law at Tsinghua University, and took him into custody on what his lawyer said was a trumped-up charge of soliciting prostitution in Chengdu. Xu was held for six days before being released.<sup>1413</sup> On July 15, the university terminated Xu's employment citing the prostitution charge as well as his publications over the last two years.<sup>1414</sup>

In March 2019, Xu Zhangrun was suspended from his university post and placed under political investigation for an article that he published in July 2018 criticizing Xi Jinping's concentration of power, lifting of terms limits, and unrelenting crackdown on dissent.<sup>1415</sup> Readers will recall that Xu published an essay online in February 2020 called "When Fury Overcomes Fear," which blamed Xi for the cover-up of the novel coronavirus outbreak.<sup>1416</sup> It is worth noting that the consequences for Xu's criticism of Xi's response to the novel coronavirus were more severe than his general criticism of Xi's heavy-handed rule.

**JULY 2020: NHC ISSUES POLICY "NORMALIZING" BIOSAFETY MEASURES TO "PREVENT LAB LEAKS"**

On July 6, the NHC issued a directive that once again framed laboratory biosafety measures as an essential element of China's pandemic response and required that such measures be "normalized" as standard procedure going forward,<sup>1417</sup> even after Beijing had declared victory in the "people's war" against the coronavirus.<sup>1418</sup> The directive was titled "Circular on Further Strengthening Monitoring and Management of Laboratory Biosafety in the Normalization of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic Prevention and Control Efforts."<sup>1419</sup> Much of the circular's content simply reiterated requirements first spelled out in the "Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for the Novel Coronavirus" issued on January 23, and the "Notice on Strengthening Biosafety Management of Laboratories [Studying] Zoonotic Pathogenic Microorganisms" issued on February 7, and clarified that those requirements would be "normalized," rather than relaxed, in the post-pandemic era.

For example, the circular echoed the aforementioned guidelines and notice in stipulating that the cultivation of novel coronaviruses (presumably not just SARS-CoV-2) and



animal infection experiments involving novel coronaviruses must be conducted in BSL-3 laboratories or above, and that BSL-3 level PPE must be used even for operations like PCR testing that may be performed in a BSL-2 setting.<sup>1420</sup> Readers will recall that the WIV did much of its coronavirus work in BSL-2 laboratories.<sup>1421</sup>

The circular ordered all of the health commissions of the 31 provincial-level jurisdictions in China to strengthen their regulation and oversight of BSL-3 and BSL-4 biosafety laboratories using NHC-issued rules and guidelines as the basis. Local level health commissions were required to raise biosafety awareness as a general matter and to train laboratories on the correct operational procedures and experimental techniques and the proper use of PPE and disposal of samples. It further required them to proactively provide technical guidance to laboratories in their jurisdictions on conducting PCR testing for novel coronavirus infections in order to “upgrade their testing capabilities and guarantee the safety of testing personnel and the surrounding environment.”<sup>1422</sup>

Reaffirming the central concern expressed in the two directives from January and February, the NHC circular from July likewise spilled the most ink on the subject of properly managing the storage and transport of viral strains and samples: “All health commissions at the local level should strictly manage strains of the novel coronavirus and related samples based on the law and regulations to ensure safety and security.”<sup>1423</sup> “All provincial-level health commissions must strengthen their supervision and management of work units that store viral strains and related samples,” the circular added, “Strictly prevent and put an end to the occurrence of unauthorized transport [of viral samples].”<sup>1424</sup> It further specified stricter transport safety requirements for samples taken from groups deemed to be at higher risk of infection by the authorities.<sup>1425</sup>

The circular charged provincial health commissions, not the frontline research institutions, with the responsibility of deciding whether to store or destroy samples of the novel coronavirus:

In accordance with the needs of pandemic prevention and control and requirements related to laboratory biosafety, all provincial health administrative departments should make timely determinations and issue opinions on the disposal of biological samples of the novel coronavirus tested in laboratories. For materials that need to be stored, health commissions shall designate as soon as possible the facilities that meet storage conditions to store samples in a relatively

concentrated manner or transfer them to national level bacterial and viral storage centers to be stored. For materials that do not need to be stored, the relevant organizations should follow the requirements for biosafety to dispose of them in a timely manner.<sup>1426</sup>

It also imposed reporting requirements for laboratories that isolate the virus:

All provincial health administrative departments are requested to urge the high-level biosafety laboratories within their jurisdiction to report the isolation, sharing of, and related activities involving novel coronavirus strains to the Science and Education Department of the Commission in a timely manner, and at the same time, instruct laboratories that isolate strains of the novel coronavirus to apply to the National Bacterial and Viral Strain Collection Center for storage within 90 days, and promptly transfer the novel coronavirus strain to the storage institution for preservation after completing the relevant experimental activities.<sup>1427</sup>

In its concluding sentence, laboratory leaks and laboratory acquired infections among researchers were specifically identified as threats that this circular was meant to address:

All provincial health administrative departments should earnestly strengthen organizational leadership, upgrade their laboratory biosafety oversight capabilities, carry out laboratory biosafety supervision and regulation in accordance with the principles of localization and classification, strengthen the supervision and inspection of experimental activities with the novel coronavirus, and guide relevant institutions within their jurisdictions to strengthen biosafety management, carry out experimental activities in strict accordance with the "Regulations on Biosafety Management of Pathogenic Microorganism Laboratories" and related technical standards, prevent laboratory leaks or infections of personnel, and ensure that there is no danger of anything going wrong with laboratory biosafety.<sup>1428</sup>

#### **JULY-AUGUST 2020: WHO SENDS ADVANCE TEAM TO CHINA TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR PROBE**

From July 10 to August 4, the WHO dispatched a two-member advance team to China to lay the groundwork for the joint China-WHO study of the origin of SARS-CoV-2 that

would eventually commence in earnest in early 2021.<sup>1429</sup> The two unidentified WHO experts, specialists in animal health and epidemiology respectively, were tasked with working with Chinese scientists to determine the scope and timing of the investigation, according to WHO Spokeswoman Margaret Harris. "We know it's very, very similar to the virus in the bat, but did it go through an intermediate species? This is a question we all need answered," Harris told a news briefing.<sup>1430</sup>

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus later told the press: "Two WHO experts are currently en route to China to meet with fellow scientists and learn about the progress made in understanding the animal reservoir for COVID-19 and how the disease jumped between animals and humans.... This will help lay the groundwork for the WHO-led international mission into the origins."<sup>1431</sup> Both Harris's and Tedros's comments presupposed zoonosis was the origin, suggesting that the WHO was not seriously considering the possibility of a lab-acquired infection at that point in time despite the WIV having earned a reputation, at least among experts in the field, as one of the world's most active centers of research on bat-borne coronaviruses since 2004. After the advance team departed China, Tedros said the "terms of reference" for the origin study had been drawn up by the WHO and China without specifying what those terms were.<sup>1432</sup> It would later be revealed that those terms of reference did not include even a single mention of a potential laboratory accident, much less a requirement to allow laboratory inspections, and gave Beijing veto power over who would join the WHO's team.<sup>1433</sup>

#### SEPTEMBER 2020: **BILLIONAIRE JAILED** FOR 18 YEARS FOR CRITICIZING XI'S RESPONSE TO OUTBREAK

On September 22, the Beijing Municipal No. 2 Intermediate People's Court sentenced outspoken real estate tycoon Ren Zhiqiang to 18 years in prison for "corruption, bribery and embezzlement of public funds."<sup>1434</sup> It was widely seen as a harsh punishment that was meant to make an example out of Ren and deter other CCP elites from speaking out against Xi and his policies.<sup>1435</sup> Readers will recall that Ren wrote an essay online in March that mocked Xi Jinping's performance at the February 23 national teleconference that he held with 170,000 cadres and military personnel, and described Xi as a "clown stripped naked who still wants to be the emperor." Ren's fate was forecast when the CCP announced on July 23 that it had expelled Ren from the party for "serious disciplinary violations," including having failed to keep in line with the Central



Committee on major issues of principle and having published articles that “defamed the party.”<sup>1436</sup>

**NOVEMBER 2020: WIV PATENTS DISINFECTANT TO STOP CORROSION OF LAB WALLS AND EQUIPMENT**

On November 13, seven researchers at the WIV, including Yuan Zhiming, the director of the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory, filed a patent for a disinfectant to be used in sanitizing various surfaces in biocontainment laboratories.<sup>1437</sup> The researchers specifically noted that their modified disinfectant was both effective against SARS-CoV-2 and not corrosive to stainless steel.<sup>1438</sup> It is worth quoting the exact text of the patent at length to understand the motive behind the WIV’s work that produced a new disinfectant:

Notable differences exist between the construction of high-level biocontainment laboratories and that of other laboratories. They not only must have various biosafety protection facilities and equipment to prevent the escape of pathogenic microorganisms, but a disinfectant must also be used to exterminate highly pathogenic microorganisms. Owing to the fact that the protective facilities and equipment, including the protective barrier, airtight doors, chemical shower, double-door autoclave, the treatment system for wastewater containing live viruses, high-efficiency air filters, and laboratory air circulation system, and so on, are largely made of metal materials such as stainless steel, and furthermore are welded together, and when using the disinfectant it is directly sprayed onto the surface of the equipment, it is therefore the case that when choosing a disinfectant, high-level biosafety labs should not only ensure that it is effective at disinfecting, but it also needs to have no or little corrosive effect on metal components.<sup>1439</sup>

However, among the disinfectants currently available, those that have a low corrosive effect on metals have poor effectiveness against highly pathogenic microorganisms, and because they are incapable of completely eliminating viral agents, they therefore cannot be used in high level biocontainment labs. Disinfectants that are effective at eliminating highly pathogenic microorganisms, on the other hand, are corrosive to metal to varying degrees, and prolonged use will cause the metal components to corrode, thereby reducing the protective function of the aforementioned facilities and equipment. This will not only lead

to economic losses by shortening the useful life [of the facilities and equipment], but it can even lead to the escape of highly pathogenic microorganisms into the environment outside of the laboratory, causing the loss of life and property and severe social problems. For this reason, the research and development of a disinfectant that is effective against highly pathogenic microorganisms, but without or with little corrosive effect to metal, such as stainless steel, is absolutely essential.<sup>1440</sup>

Lest the reader wonder if that remark about the escape of pathogens was an isolated reference, the authors repeatedly described the purpose of the modified disinfectant as preventing pathogen escape, including in the summary of the patent. “By adding nano magnesium to the disinfectant solution, it noticeably reduces its corrosive effect on metal, especially stainless steel, thereby preventing the rise of biosafety accidents caused by highly pathogenic microorganisms that escape due to the corrosion of various metal components in the protective facilities and equipment in a high-level biosafety laboratory.”<sup>1441</sup>

Readers will recall that the CCP branch at the WIV’s Zhengdian Park campus, where the BSL-4 laboratory is housed, suggested in a report in November 2019 that WIV staff had resorted to technical workarounds and modifications to deal with the “stranglehold” problem and the “three nos,” as well as to satisfy Beijing’s demands for indigenous innovation.<sup>1442</sup> One example of such modifications was particularly pertinent to this patent: “[Regarding] the protective structure for the core zone of the laboratory, the research team, following repeated testing, used an advanced laser welding method, which had a better airtight effect and was longer lasting, to replace the traditional glue sealant method. The P4 team possesses the intellectual property patent for this technology. The mathematical model of [our] independent design with automated controls produced a more stable differential pressure control effect.”<sup>1443</sup>

The important point to absorb here is that what allowed the WIV to employ a laser welding method to seal the interior walls of these new laboratories was the fact that the walls had been constructed entirely of stainless steel. This was not the conventional choice for construction material, and it was a deliberate departure from the blueprint of the BSL-4 facility in Lyon that France had shared with China to serve as the model for the design and construction of the BSL-4 laboratory in Wuhan.<sup>1444</sup> The implication of

this patent is clear: WIV researchers discovered that the disinfectant they had been using to clean the surfaces of their stainless steel facilities and equipment was corrosive. That corrosion created porous holes, likely imperceptible to the naked eye, but big enough for a pathogenic microorganism like a coronavirus to slip through.

**NOVEMBER 2020: WIV ADMITS TO KEY FACTS ABOUT RATG13 IN ADDENDUM TO NATURE ARTICLE**

On November 17, Nature published an addendum to Shi Zhengli's paper that it had first published on February 3,<sup>1445</sup> which was discussed earlier in this chronology (see "January 2020: WIV Paper Omits Relevant Facts About SARS-CoV-2 Relative 'RaTG13'"). More than nine months after initial publication, the addendum acknowledged many of the relevant facts that had been mysteriously omitted from the original paper about SARS-CoV-2's closest relative, but later uncovered by scientists and Internet sleuths: the renaming of BtCoV/4991 to RaTG13, the WIV's sequencing of its full genome in 2018 (not in 2020), and its origin from the same mine in Yunnan Province where several men fell ill with a severe respiratory condition in 2013.<sup>1446</sup> Readers will recall that Peter Daszak had dismissed those who uncovered these facts as the "conspiracy folks."<sup>1447</sup>

Two new pieces of important information emerged from the addendum. First, the WIV had not only tested the samples from the Mojiang mine patients for viruses at the time the samples were received, but they retested the samples after the pandemic began. This means that the samples had been stored at the WIV all along, but were never shared with research groups outside of China for independent verification.<sup>1448</sup> Second, the addendum revealed that the WIV had collected at least nine betacoronaviruses from the mine (including RaTG13), which it had never published or otherwise shared information about with the international community.<sup>1449</sup> Shi wrote in the addendum: "Between 2012 and 2015, our group sampled bats once or twice a year in this cave [sic] and collected a total of 1,322 samples. From these samples, we detected 293 highly diverse coronaviruses, of which 284 were designated alphacoronaviruses and [nine] were designated betacoronaviruses on the basis of partial RdRp sequences. All of the nine betacoronaviruses are SARSr-CoVs."<sup>1450</sup> By now, readers do not need reminding that SARS-CoV-2 is a betacoronavirus.

While the addendum cleared the air in some respects, it added to the fog of confusion in others. In one important clarification regarding the Mojiang mine illnesses in Yunnan,



the addendum acknowledged that “we suspected that the patients had been infected by an unknown virus.”<sup>1451</sup> The addendum went on, however, to make claims about the Mojiang mine patients that were at odds with those found in two theses written in Chinese by WIV researchers in 2013 and 2016. The addendum claimed: “We tested the samples using PCR methods developed in our laboratory targeting the RNA-dependent RNA polymerases (RdRp) of Ebola virus, Nipah virus and bat SARSr-CoV Rp3, and all of the samples were negative for the presence of these viruses.”<sup>1452</sup> It also claimed that the WIV had tested for antibodies against the same three viruses with negative results. The 2013 thesis, however, indicated that the WIV had detected serum immunoglobulin-M (IgM) antibodies against viruses in the miners. The 2016 thesis also reported that the four hospitalized patients who were still living at the time of the sampling carried IgG antibodies against SARS virus.<sup>1453</sup> A positive IgM test result indicates a recent exposure and likely infection.<sup>1454</sup>

The WIV’s story would change yet again when Beijing finally allowed the WHO to visit Wuhan in early 2021; it would evolve in a direction that sought to further delink the viruses found in the mine in 2013 to the respiratory illnesses witnessed at that time. The WIV told the WHO team that the severe illness observed in the Mojiang mine patients was more likely explained by “fungal infections acquired when removing a thick layer of guano” than infection with a SARS-like coronavirus.<sup>1455</sup>

#### NOVEMBER 2020: JI CHANGZHENG RETURNS TO THE WIV A YEAR LATER

On November 25 to 28, Ji Changzheng, the director of technology safety and security in the General Office of the CAS, returned to the WIV to conduct another biosafety training.<sup>1456</sup> Like the training that Ji conducted on November 20-22, 2019,<sup>1457</sup> this training was also relatively large in scale, boasting approximately 270 researchers in attendance.<sup>1458</sup> Unlike 2019, the researchers who participated in 2020 were drawn from labs around the country, not merely from the WIV and neighboring labs. The 2020 participants consisted of biosafety managers, laboratory technicians, management personnel, and graduate students. Other officials from Beijing, including from the NPC, joined Ji for the training.<sup>1459</sup>

There was no report of any activity held by Ji in November 2020 that was comparable to the meeting he held with WIV and CAS management on November 19, 2019,<sup>1460</sup> before the larger training commenced on November 20, 2019. The report of the training in

2020 made no mention of senior CCP leaders such as Xi Jinping, did not invoke their “important oral remarks and important written instructions,” and said nothing about a “grave and complex situation.” This report was much more mundane and closely resembled the other reports of Ji’s routine trainings held around the country between 2017 and 2022.

## THE CHRONOLOGY: 2021

### JANUARY 2021: WUHAN REVISES EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS FOR “SUDDEN INCIDENTS”

On January 7, the Wuhan Municipal People’s Government issued a revised version of the “Wuhan Municipality Overall Emergency Response Contingency Plans for Sudden Incidents.” The original directive was enacted in March 2013.<sup>1461</sup> “Sudden incidents” in the parlance of the CCP refers to a broad category of events that develop suddenly and which the CCP perceives as posing a potential threat to the stability of the political system. Everything from natural disasters to various kinds of accidents and mishaps to mass protests is grouped under the category of “sudden incidents.” The official response to “sudden incidents” instinctually focuses first and foremost on “stability maintenance” rather than addressing the underlying issue.<sup>1462</sup>

One of the revisions to these contingency plans was of particular relevance to this study: sudden incidents related to pathogenic microorganisms were among the new scenarios added to update these contingency plans. In Section 1.3 under the heading “Classifying and Ranking Sudden Incidents,” a new category on “incidents [involving] bacterial and viral strains of pathogenic microorganisms” was added under an entirely new subsection on “public health incidents.”<sup>1463</sup> Public health incidents were described as follows: “the outbreak of infectious disease, safety incidents [involving] food and medicines, incidents [involving] mass poisonings and infections, incidents [involving] bacterial and viral strains of pathogenic microorganisms, incidents [involving] animal epidemics, incidents [involving] a mass outbreak of epidemic disease of unknown origin, and other incidents that have a serious impact on the lives, health, and safety of the public.”<sup>1464</sup>

A chart classifying the different kinds of sudden incidents and designating the municipal government departments responsible for leading the response to them tasked the Wuhan



Municipal Health Commission with taking charge of the new category of “Biosafety Incidents [Involving] State Key Biological Laboratories.”<sup>1465</sup> The original 2013 version of the contingency plans was also examined and no references were found that exactly or roughly matched the key terms “biological laboratories,” “biosafety incidents,” “incidents [involving] bacterial and viral strains of pathogenic microorganisms,” and “incidents [involving] a mass outbreak of epidemic disease of unknown origin” that appeared in the 2021 revised edition.<sup>1466</sup>

#### JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021: WHO’S LONG-DELAYED STUDY TOUR HITS A GREAT WALL IN WUHAN

On January 14, more than a year after PRC authorities had first acknowledged the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2, a team of 13 scientists and experts with the WHO arrived in Wuhan to conduct a joint study with Chinese counterparts of the origin of SARS-CoV-2. The visit would last until February 9, though the WHO team spent their first two weeks on the ground in quarantine.<sup>1467</sup> The team was supposed to consist of 15 individuals in total, but PRC officials stopped two of them from departing from Singapore for China because they tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies, even though multiple PCR tests showed they were not infected with the virus.<sup>1468</sup> During the two weeks after quarantine beginning on January 28, the WHO team visited the shuttered Huanan Seafood Market, a few local hospitals, a frozen food storage facility, the Wuhan Municipal CDCP, the WIV, and a museum celebrating the authorities’ claimed victory over the virus.<sup>1469</sup>

PRC authorities had blocked the WHO visit for months, then delayed it further, and ultimately exercised veto power over the foreign scientists selected to join the team. Beijing blocked three experts recommended by the U.S. government in favor of Peter Daszak, a zoologist based in New York City who had categorically dismissed the possibility of a laboratory origin and whose sub-contracting of coronavirus research to the WIV posed a conflict of interest.<sup>1470</sup> The Chinese scientists involved in the study had agreed in July 2020 to a plan that would have them gather and analyze critical data – such as early genomic sequences of the virus, hospital inpatient records, test samples of sewage and blood donations, and interviews with early victims – well in advance of the WHO team’s arrival in order to discuss them during the visit.<sup>1471</sup>



In August 2020 after the plan was established, the WHO shared its hope for access to new data that would allow a retrospective reconstruction of the early days of the outbreak. Dr. Michael Ryan, director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, lamented “gaps in the epidemiological landscape” and forecasted what needed to be done: “The real trick is to go to the human clusters that occurred first and then to work your way back systematically looking for that first signal at which the animal-human species barrier was crossed. Once you understand where that the barrier was breached, then you move into the studies in a more systematic way on the animal side.”<sup>1472</sup>

The WHO team soon discovered, however, that some of the tasks the Chinese scientists agreed to undertake had not been completed, including detailed studies of blood samples from before December 2019 and the compilation of a complete list of animals sold at the Huanan Seafood Market. More importantly, PRC authorities were only willing to share their analysis of the data and repeatedly denied access to the raw data for independent WHO verification.<sup>1473</sup> One investigative report described “a heated exchange” that ensued when the WHO pressed their Chinese interlocutors on the key question of how widely the virus had spread around Wuhan before the first official confirmed case in early December.<sup>1474</sup> The Chinese team claimed to have examined 76,000 medical records and identified only 92 hospitalized patients from October, November, and early December 2019 whose symptoms were consistent with COVID-19. They further insisted that not one of the 92 had tested positive for antibodies. The WHO team knew that the number was too small because COVID-19’s symptoms are similar enough to other common diseases that “in a province of nearly 60 million people, vastly more cases should have been tested.”<sup>1475</sup>

Some WHO team members quizzed their counterparts about the criteria used to select the 92 hospital cases, and expressed disbelief that PRC authorities had waited until only a few weeks before the team’s arrival to test for antibodies – knowing full well that antibodies fade over time, potentially to undetectable levels nearly a year after an infection. “The team pressed for immediate access to the raw, anonymized data on the 76,000 patients, which they thought could be filtered differently to identify something closer to 1,000 potential earlier Covid-19 infections,” according to the Wall Street Journal.<sup>1476</sup> The PRC side refused to cooperate and instead advised the WHO to study whether the pandemic originated outside of China.<sup>1477</sup>

## FEBRUARY 2021: XI LAUNCHES "EDUCATION AND RECTIFICATION" DRIVE AGAINST SECURITY FORCES

On February 27, the CCP Central Political and Legal Commission convened in Beijing to plan for and mobilize an internal campaign intended to "educate and rectify" the various security forces and legal and judicial offices under its jurisdiction nationwide.<sup>1478</sup> Commission Party Secretary Guo Shengkun, who was also a Politburo member and the head of the Leading Small Group for Nationwide Education and Rectification, delivered the main address at the meeting.<sup>1479</sup> The Central Political and Legal Commission is the CCP Central Committee's organ for controlling the Ministry of Public Security, its domestic security apparatus, and the Ministry of State Security, its main foreign and domestic intelligence agency, as well as the Ministry of Justice and the court system.<sup>1480</sup>

The themes emphasized at the meeting – the requirement to follow Xi Jinping's ideas and edicts, the need to strictly regulate the security forces and strengthen their loyalty to the CCP as a whole and to Xi in particular, and the urgency to purge the forces of bad actors – betrayed Xi's unease with his security forces.<sup>1481</sup> While Sun Lijun's name was not invoked explicitly in the public readout of the meeting, his shadow loomed large, and as made evident by orders such as "give prominence to the task of firmly building political loyalty, eliminate the black sheep that harm the herd, and bring stubborn maladies under control."<sup>1482</sup> Such evocative language was meant to convey a certain fear-inducing forcefulness.

Guo continued with this tactic:

Launching [the campaign] to educate and rectify the political-legal forces is a necessary requirement to uphold [the edict] to strictly manage the party and control the police and push forward with the self-revolution of the political-legal forces. [You] must develop a thoroughgoing revolutionary spirit. Confronting the particularity of law enforcement and judicial operations, mindful of the deep-seated problems exposed by the campaign to sweep away black and eliminate evil, [you] must adhere to [the approach of] full chain force, whole system rectification, by turning the blade inward, scraping the poison off the bone, eliminating the black sheep who harm the herd, and thoroughly rectifying the stubborn maladies.<sup>1483</sup>

Readers will recall that the violent imagery of “turning the blade inward and scraping the poison off the bone” was taken from major speeches that Xi Jinping delivered in January 2019.<sup>1484</sup> The seriousness of the “education and rectification” campaign discussed by Guo can be assessed by its sweeping scope and swift implementation. Between February 2021 and the end of July 2021, 178,431 cadres working for the political-legal forces were subjected to punishment in connection with the campaign, including 19,847 police officers who voluntarily surrendered, 49,163 individuals whose cases were filed for formal review and investigation, 2,875 individuals who were detained, and 1,562 individuals whose cases were transferred to the judicial system for criminal prosecution.<sup>1485</sup> As many as 1,258 department heads were swept up in the campaign, 413 of whom committed “serious violations of discipline and law.”<sup>1486</sup>

#### **MAY 2021: HUBEI PROVINCE ISSUES DIRECTIVE AIMED AT LABORATORY WASTE MANAGEMENT**

On May 27, five departments of the Hubei Provincial People’s Government jointly issued a directive to subordinate governments throughout the province, including its capital of Wuhan, on the issue of managing hazardous waste from laboratories.<sup>1487</sup> While the scope of the directive was quite comprehensive, it showed a clear concern about the possibility of pathogen escape as a result of inadequate biowaste storage procedures: “Laboratories that produce three or more tons [of hazardous waste] should build a standardized storage facility that satisfies the requirements to prevent dispersion, loss, and seepage [of hazardous waste] and implement professional management.”<sup>1488</sup> It also explicitly sought to address ways that waste disposal could result in laboratory acquired infections: “Relating to infectious waste at laboratories working with pathogenic microorganisms, you should follow the standards, regulations, and requirements, such as the General Use Requirements for Laboratory Biosafety (GB19489), to strengthen the disinfectant treatment and safe storage of infectious waste.”<sup>1489</sup>

It appears that the WIV took this directive seriously. As we will discuss below, a little over four months after this directive was issued, WIV researchers would file a patent for a temporary waste storage unit to prevent the escape of viruses during the depositing and collecting of waste.<sup>1490</sup>



#### JUNE 2021: WHO-CHINA STUDY **DISCREDITED** BY NEW DOCUMENTATION OF ANIMALS AT MARKETS

On June 7, an international team of five researchers from China, Canada, and the United Kingdom published a paper on animal sales that had been documented at Wuhan wet markets prior to the pandemic.<sup>1491</sup> The researchers wrote:

Here we present a unique and original dataset recording wild animal sales across Wuhan City's animal markets between May 2017 and November 2019.... We note that no pangolins (or bats) were traded, supporting reformed opinion that pangolins were not likely the spillover host at the source of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. While we caution against the misattribution of COVID-19's origins, the wild animals on sale in Wuhan suffered poor welfare and hygiene conditions and we detail a range of other zoonotic infections they can potentially vector.<sup>1492</sup>

Xiao Xiao, the lead author of the study, who holds dual appointments at the Key Laboratory of Southwest China Wildlife Resources Conservation (Ministry of Education) at China West Normal University and at the Lab Animal Research Center at Hubei University of Chinese Medicine in Wuhan, surveyed several wet markets in Wuhan for over two years, and based on the data he collected, estimated that 47,381 individual animals representing 38 species, including 31 protected species, were likely sold between May 2017 and November 2019. Photographic evidence of various species that Xiao had found in the Wuhan markets was provided in the study.<sup>1493</sup> The Joint WHO-China study, by contrast, claimed the following: "Market authorities have confirmed that all reported live and frozen animals sold in the Huanan market were from farms that were legally licensed for breeding and quarantine, and that no illegal trade in wildlife has been found.... [N]o verified reports of live mammals being sold around 2019 were found."<sup>1494</sup>

#### JULY 2021: WHO **ACKNOWLEDGES** IT WAS "PREMATURE" TO RULE OUT LAB LEAK ORIGIN

On July 15, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the WHO, acknowledged that Beijing had denied access to the raw epidemiological data that the WHO team had requested during its visit in February, citing this and other reasons that the WHO had been ill-advised to rule out the possibility that the pandemic began as a result of a laboratory acquired infection. Tedros called for greater transparency from

Beijing and spoke to journalists of a "premature push" to rule out the theory that the virus might have escaped from a Chinese government-run lab in Wuhan, which led to the joint WHO-China study to conclude in March that a laboratory leak was "extremely unlikely."<sup>1495</sup> "I was a lab technician myself, I'm an immunologist, and I have worked in the lab, and lab accidents happen," Tedros said, "It's common."<sup>1496</sup>

Tedros was not clear who exactly was behind this "premature push," but one can imagine it was Beijing and/or one of its long-time international collaborators in the scientific community, such as Peter Daszak, who was chosen to serve on the WHO team at Beijing's insistence.<sup>1497</sup> Tedros said that "checking what happened, especially in our labs, is important" to nailing down if the pandemic had any laboratory links. "We need information, direct information, on what the situation of this lab was before and at the start of the pandemic," the WHO chief said, adding that China's cooperation was critical: "If we get full information, we can exclude (the lab connection)."<sup>1498</sup>

#### SEPTEMBER 2021: "CONSPIRATORIAL CLIQUE" UNCOVERED IN JIANGSU

On September 14, a Chinese website called NetEase published a story citing an internal PRC government document that described a "conspiratorial clique" formed by several senior public security officers, mostly from Jiangsu Province. It also disclosed that the group was "planning something bad" when unnamed party leaders, likely Xi Jinping, were due to take part in commemorative activities related to World War II in Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu. Unspecified security officials stepped in to "prevent the evil activity."<sup>1499</sup>

The alleged orchestrator of the plot was Luo Wenjin, the head of the General Criminal Investigation Brigade of the Jiangsu Provincial Public Security Department, who was placed under investigation by the Jiangsu Provincial Discipline Inspection Commission in March 2021.<sup>1500</sup> Luo's co-conspirators included Deng Huilin, a former Deputy Mayor and head of the Public Security Department of Chongqing Municipality, who also once served as director of the General Office of the Central Political Legal Commission; Wang Like, the former secretary of the Jiangsu Provincial Political-Legal Committee and head of the Jiangsu Provincial Public Security Department; and Yan Ming, the executive vice president of the Jiangsu Provincial People's Procuratorate. Gong Dao'an, the deputy mayor and public security chief of nearby Shanghai Municipality, was also reportedly a participant in the plot.<sup>1501</sup> Luo and Deng, both of whom hailed from Wuhan, were

longtime associates and the two main conspirators. The NetEase article accused the pair of having regularly “made ungrounded criticisms of fundamental policies of the CCP Central Committee and cast aspersions on the country’s main leaders.”<sup>1502</sup>

The late billionaire entrepreneur Lai Xiaomin, the former chairman of the Huarong Asset Management Company, who was sentenced to death on charges of bribery and embezzlement in January 2021, was also alleged to have been in cahoots with Luo.<sup>1503</sup> In September 2021, Gong and Deng, both of whom were connected to sacked Vice Minister of Public Security Sun Lijun, were convicted of corruption, with the former receiving a suspended death sentence and the latter being sentenced to 15 years in prison.<sup>1504</sup>

#### **SEPTEMBER 2021: XI JINPING MAKES THE POLITBURO STUDY BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY**

On September 29, the Politburo of the CCP Central Committee, comprising the 25 highest ranking members of the CCP, gathered for their 33rd collective study session. On this occasion, the subject of study was “strengthening the building of biosafety and biosecurity in our country.”<sup>1505</sup> The study session was presided over by Xi Jinping, who called on the CCP’s top leaders to “scrutinize and tightly grasp the focus areas of biosafety and biosecurity risk and strengthen bottom line thinking and risk awareness.”<sup>1506</sup> The first of these focus areas was a biosecurity concern, “monitoring and managing the security of biological resources,” particularly genetic data,<sup>1507</sup> a concern that the PLA had harbored for years,<sup>1508</sup> and one that central authorities had sought to address with regulatory revisions in 2019.<sup>1509</sup>

Xi’s second focus area was also one of biosecurity, specifically biosecurity at China’s ports of entry, a concern which Xi also had been preoccupied with as early as March 2019.<sup>1510</sup> “We must strengthen entry quarantine, strengthen analysis of the latent risks and the punishment of conduct that violates laws and regulations, and resolutely guard the nation’s gates and checkpoints,” Xi noted, adding the following cryptic instruction, “For those [threats] that have already entered and caused serious harm, we must ascertain the truth of the matter.”<sup>1511</sup>

For his third focus area of concern, Xi Jinping shifted from biosecurity to biosafety, specifically the risks posed by biocontainment laboratories: “We must strengthen the biosafety management of domestic laboratories working with pathogenic



microorganisms by strictly enforcing the relevant standards and regulations while also strictly managing experimental samples, laboratory animal subjects, and the waste from experimental activities.”<sup>1512</sup> Readers will hear recognizable themes in Xi’s remarks, recalling that in January 2020 the NHC prohibited researchers and clinicians from sharing samples of SARS-CoV-2 and ordered them to destroy those in their possession,<sup>1513</sup> while seven central government ministries jointly issued a directive in February 2020 ordering the provinces to strengthen control over BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories – singling out the control of samples and safe storage as chief concerns.<sup>1514</sup> In May 2021, the province in charge of Wuhan issued new regulations on managing biowaste,<sup>1515</sup> and less than a month after Xi’s remarks here to the Politburo, the WIV would file a patent application for a technology aimed at addressing the same problem.<sup>1516</sup>

Echoing his speeches from 2020, Xi Jinping continued to stress the need for an early warning system specifically for biosafety/biosecurity incidents: “We must organize a firmly and tightly secured network for risk monitoring and early warning, comprehensively build a risk monitoring and early warning system, focus on strengthening the building of risk monitoring stations at the grassroots level, and improve our ability to detect [problems] at the back end. We must quickly become aware of and quickly distinguish sudden outbreaks of infectious diseases...[,] reaching the point of early detection, early warning, and early response.”<sup>1517</sup>

Xi Jinping wanted the Politburo to appreciate that biosecurity and biosafety were not technical matters or niche issues reserved for specialists, but rather were urgent matters for all cadres to consider:

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, while presiding over the study [session], emphasized that biosafety and biosecurity are matters related to the health and lives of the people, matters related to the lasting political stability of the state, matters related to sustaining the development of the Chinese nation. [Biosafety and biosecurity] are component parts of the holistic view of national security and also a powerful force that can influence, and even reshape, the world order. [We] must deeply comprehend the importance and urgency of strengthening biosafety and biosecurity under these new conditions.<sup>1518</sup>

Xi Jinping admitted that problems persist with biosafety and biosecurity, and that these problems have the potential to directly affect the security of the party-state:

Xi Jinping stressed that at present, traditional biosafety and biosecurity problems and a new type of biosafety and biosecurity risks are layered on top of one another and mutually reinforcing. External biosecurity threats and internal biosafety risks are intertwined, existing side-by-side. Biosafety and biosecurity risks present numerous new characteristics. Shortcomings and weak spots exist in our country's system for preventing, controlling, and managing biosafety and biosecurity risks. We must scientifically analyze the biosafety and biosecurity conditions in our country, ascertain the risks and challenges we face, and make clear the ideas and measures [needed] to strengthen the building of biosafety and biosecurity.<sup>1519</sup>

Xi's understated references to "shortcomings" and "weak spots" in China's biosafety practices are, by now, a familiar refrain to readers, not only because they populated Xi's speeches during the early days of the pandemic,<sup>1520</sup> but more importantly, because they had first appeared in reports issued by the CAS and WIV in 2018 and leading up to the outbreak in 2019.<sup>1521</sup>

Xi concluded with a message that biosafety and biosecurity were long-term tasks requiring the sustained focus of cadres at all levels:

Strengthening the building of biosafety and biosecurity is a long-term and arduous task requiring continuous exertion and steady advancement. Party committees (party organizations) and governments at all levels must earnestly unify their thoughts and actions with the decisions and deployments made by the Party Central Committee, and [you must] fully implement your responsibilities for biosecurity and biosafety work as you are duty-bound to defend your country and must discharge these responsibilities [to defend the country accordingly].<sup>1522</sup>

Before closing, Xi included a throwaway line about searching for the origin of SARS-CoV-2, a search which apparently warrants an occasional mention by PRC officials, but for which no details have ever emerged beyond the highly problematic joint WHO-China study. "Follow the rules of science to push ahead with the work to trace the origin of the novel coronavirus," Xi said.<sup>1523</sup>

#### OCTOBER 2021: XI JINPING **SACKS** MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND FORMER SECURITY OFFICIAL

On October 2, Minister of Justice Fu Zhenghua, who had also previously served as Vice Minister of Public Security, was sacked for allegedly being in cahoots with Vice Minister for Public Security Sun Lijun, who was purged in April 2019 for disloyalty to Xi Jinping and leaking classified material related to the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak.<sup>1524</sup> The announcement that Fu had been placed under investigation by the CCP Central Commission for Discipline Inspection came just one day after the commission issued a stinging criticism of Sun, marking the conclusion of 17 months of investigation.<sup>1525</sup>

In September 2022, Sun Lijun and Fu Zhenghua were both sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve, a sentence which may later be commuted to life in prison.<sup>1526</sup> That same month the former public security chiefs for the three provincial level jurisdictions of Shanghai, Chongqing, and Shanxi were also sentenced to prison on corruption charges and allegations of colluding with Sun Lijun against Xi Jinping.<sup>1527</sup> Unconfirmed reports suggest that one of Sun's acts of political disloyalty may have been wiretapping Xi's conversations.<sup>1528</sup> Another unofficial account of Sun's crimes claims that Sun shared notes of his observations in Wuhan of the party's handling of the outbreak to his Sydney-based wife, which were intercepted by Australian intelligence agencies.<sup>1529</sup> Whatever the case, the CCP has been unequivocal in its condemnation of Sun, calling on his former colleagues in the public security apparatus to "resolutely and thoroughly eliminate the poisonous influence of Sun Lijun."<sup>1530</sup>

#### OCTOBER 2021: WHO FORMS **NEW** TEAM TO STUDY ORIGIN

On October 13, the WHO announced that it had set up a new panel of 26 scientists tasked with reinvigorating the WHO's stalled inquiry into the origin of the novel coronavirus that caused the pandemic. Experts in virology, epidemiology, and animal health were tapped to serve on the team, and unlike the original WHO team, at least one specialist in laboratory biosafety was included in the newly enlarged configuration.<sup>1531</sup> "This is our best chance, and it may be our last chance, to understand the origins of this virus," Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's health emergencies program, told reporters, "We are at a very important moment." Ryan and other WHO officials stressed that time was running out to examine blood samples and other important



epidemiological indicators of exactly when, where, and how the pandemic started.<sup>1532</sup> At the time of writing of this report, it appeared that the new WHO team had encountered the same roadblocks erected by the PRC authorities that had impeded the work of the original team, including denial of access to critical data on and clinical samples taken from early COVID-19 cases.

#### OCTOBER 2021: WIV PATENTS TEMPORARY STORAGE UNIT FOR HAZARDOUS SOLID WASTE

On October 15, three researchers from the WIV filed a patent application for a temporary storage unit for hazardous solid waste for use in high level biosafety laboratories.<sup>1533</sup> This storage unit was aimed at preventing the leak of viruses during the depositing and collecting of waste due to operator error.<sup>1534</sup> The patent application explained that temporary storage units used in high-level BSL labs were typically operated by a single person, whose mishandling of waste could create risks for pathogen escape. The three WIV researchers designed this new storage unit to require two people to rotate the unit in order to open the door of the storage bin. The reason given for this design was to prevent the mistake of a single individual leading to the escape of pathogens.<sup>1535</sup> A code is also required to open the door of the storage unit to prevent accidental opening. Moreover, the design added a feature to the wind tunnel that would spray a disinfectant solution onto the user's hand during the process of depositing and collecting of waste.<sup>1536</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Strictly speaking, one can distinguish clearly between biosafety (生物安全) and biosecurity (生物安保) in Chinese, but more often than not, 生物安全 is used interchangeably for both terms. A helpful discussion of the difference between the two terms in the English context can be found in the proceedings of a December 2014 workshop on gain-of-function research: “Biosafety provides policies and practices to prevent the unintentional or accidental release of specific biological agents and toxins, whereas biosecurity provides policies and practices to prevent the intentional or negligent release of biological materials or the acquisition of knowledge, tools, or techniques that could be used to cause harm. Thus, while providing a foundation upon which to build biosecurity capacity, biosafety measures, in and of themselves, cannot fully address biosecurity risks.” See, The National Research Council 2015, “Chapter 5: Potential Risks: Biosafety and Biosecurity,” in *Potential Risks and Benefits of Gain-of-Function Research: Summary of a Workshop* (Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2015), p. 59.

<sup>2</sup> For examples of the English translation, see “China Adopts Law to Safeguard Biosecurity,” *Xinhuanet*, 17 October 2020; “China’s Top Legislator Stresses Full Implementation of Biosecurity Law,” *Xinhuanet*, 01 April 2021; and “China’s Biosecurity Law Goes into Effect,” *Xinhuanet*, 16 April 2021. For the original Chinese text of the law, see the “Biosecurity Law of the People’s Republic of China” (中华人民共和国生物安全法), *The National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 17 October 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Yuan Zhiming, et. Al, “Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory User Training Program, China,” *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (Volume 25, Number 5), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Online), 26 March 2019.

<sup>4</sup> For two examples of Xinhua reports that cited this definition, see Zhang Quan, “Building a Sturdy National Biosecurity Legal Barrier – The Sixth National Security Education Day Closely Examines Biosecurity Law” (筑牢国家生物安全法律屏障——第六个全民国家安全教育日之际解析生物安全法), *Xinhua News Agency*, 15 April 2021; and Zhang Quan, “Giving Greater Prominence to Strengthening Biosecurity – Our Country Sustained Elevation of National Biosecurity Governance Capabilities,” (把加强生物安全建设摆上更加突出的位置——我国持续提升国家生物安全治理能力), *Xinhua News Agency* reprinted on *gov.cn*, 01 October 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Michael Raska, “Scientific Innovation and China’s Military Modernization,” *The Diplomat*, 03 September 2013.

<sup>6</sup> “The General Office of the State Council Circular Regarding the Main Policy Points to Develop Information Technology and Biotechnology,” (国务院办公厅关于印发信息技术发展政策要点和生物技术发展政策要点的通知), *the Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), originally issued on 20 April 1988, posted online on 13 December 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Scott Moore, “China’s Role in the Global Biotechnology Sector and Implications for U.S. Policy,” *The Brookings Institution*, April 2020, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, “Keeping Up with the *Jundui*: Reforming the Chinese Defense Acquisition, Technology and Industrial System,” in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., (Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019), p. 594.

<sup>9</sup> The quoted phrase comes from the sentence “瞄准新一代信息技术、高端装备、新材料、生物医药等战略重点。” See, “The State Council Announcement Regarding the Made in China 2025 Circular” (国务院关于印发“中国制造 2025”的通知), PRC State Council Document No. 28 for 2015, posted online at *gov.cn*, the official website of the Central Government of People’s Republic of China, 19 May 2015.

<sup>10</sup> *2021 Report to Congress of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission*, One Hundred Seventeenth Congress, First Session, November 2021, p. 174-175, 177.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p. 179.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, p. 175.

<sup>13</sup> Elsa B. Kania, “Minds at War: China’s Pursuit of Military Advantage through Cognitive Science and Biotechnology,” *PRISM Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 3, (National Defense University: January 2020), p. 91.

<sup>14</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 58.

<sup>15</sup> Scott Moore, “China’s Role in the Global Biotechnology Sector and Implications for U.S. Policy,” *The Brookings Institution*, April 2020, pg. 1.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, pg. 2.

<sup>17</sup> Emphasis added. The expert who was quoted is Tara J. O'Toole. See Claudia Adrien, "Chinese Biotechnology Dominates U.S. Senate Hearing on Biological Threats," *Homeland Preparedness News*, 21 November 2019.

<sup>18</sup> The quoted text is "充分发挥武汉生物制品研究所、中科院 P4 生物安全实验室、国药集团武汉血液制品公司等核心机构的带动作用。" See, "General Office of the Wuhan Municipal People's Government Circular on the Release of the Wuhan Municipal Greater Health Industry Development Plan (2019-2035)," [市人民政府办公厅关于印发武汉市大健康产业发展规划 (2019-2035 年) 的通知], *Wuhan Municipal People's Government*, 08 April 2019, p. 19.

<sup>19</sup> The quoted text is "积极申报武汉综合性国家产业创新中心" and "积极谋划建设国家重大科技基础设施群." See, "Hubei Provincial Development and Reform Commission Opinion and Work Notice Concerning the Implementation of the Strategy to Accelerate the Rise of the Central Region and Promote High-Quality Development" (省发展改革委关于落实促进中部地区崛起战略推动高质量发展意见工作的通知), *Hubei Provincial People's Government*, 29 November 2019.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "提高关键领域自主创新能力."

<sup>21</sup> The quoted text is "P4 实验室建设对中国公共卫生至关重要." See, Zheng Qianli (郑千里) and Li Li (李莉), "Jiangxia Leads a New Literature, Riding a Crane while Playing a Carefree Tune: An Account of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology P4 Laboratory Construction and Research Team" (江夏演新文 乘鹤奏悠曲 – 记中科院武汉病毒研究所 P4 实验室建设和研究团队), *China Science Daily* (中国科学报), 08 January 2018.

<sup>22</sup> Kevin Pollpeter and Kenneth W. Allen, eds, *The PLA as Organization v2.0*, Defense Technical Information Center, 14 June 2012, p. 204.

<sup>23</sup> Zhang Huan, "Infectious Disease Monitoring System in Sierra Leone Built with Aid of Chinese Medical Experts," *The People's Daily Online* (English Edition), 08 September 2017.

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<sup>25</sup> Eric Croddy, "Chinese Chemical and Biological Warfare Capabilities," in *China and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Implications for the United States*, U.S. National Intelligence Council, 05 November 1999.

<sup>26</sup> Ellen Nakashima and Aaron Schaffer, "Biden Administration Places Top Chinese Military Institute on Export Blacklist over its Use of Surveillance, 'Brain-Control' Technology," *The Washington Post*, 16 December 2021.

<sup>27</sup> Joel Wuthnow, "China's 'New' Academy of Military Science: A Revolution in Theoretical Affairs?," *China Brief*, Volume 19, Issue 2, Jamestown Foundation, 18 January 2019.

<sup>28</sup> Joel Wuthnow and Phillip C. Saunders, "Introduction: Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., (Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019), p. 1-2.

<sup>29</sup> Joel Wuthnow, "China's 'New' Academy of Military Science: A Revolution in Theoretical Affairs?," *China Brief*, Volume 19, Issue 2, Jamestown Foundation, 18 January 2019.

<sup>30</sup> Elsa B. Kania, "Minds at War: China's Pursuit of Military Advantage through Cognitive Science and Biotechnology," *PRISM Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 3, National Defense University: January 2020, p. 84.

<sup>31</sup> Joel Wuthnow, "China's 'New' Academy of Military Science: A Revolution in Theoretical Affairs?," *China Brief*, Volume 19, Issue 2, Jamestown Foundation, 18 January 2019.

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<sup>34</sup> David Shambaugh, *Modernizing China's Military: Progress, Problems, and Prospects*, (University of California Press: Los Angeles, 2002), p. 89.



<sup>35</sup> “2019 Military Schools’ Student Recruitment Brochure Station No. 26: The Army’s Institute of Chemical Defense,” (2019 军校招生简章第二十六站: 陆军防化学院), *The People’s Liberation Army Daily*, 26 June 2019.

<sup>36</sup> Yuan Zhiming, Et. al, “Considerations about Improving the Planning of High-Level Biosafety Laboratory System in China,” (关于加强我国高等级生物安全实验室体系规划的思考), *Bulletin of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (中国科学院院刊), 2016, 31(10): 12.

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> “How to Distribute? Guangdong Province Plans to Build 25-30 P3 Laboratories” (如何布局? 广东规划建设 25-30 家 P3 实验室), *Antpedia*, 26 May 2020.

<sup>40</sup> William J. Broad and Judith Miller, “Soviet Defector Says China Had Accident at Germ Plant,” *The New York Times*, 05 April 1999; and Ken Alibek, *Biohazard*, (Random House: New York, 1999), p. 273; and Eric Croddy, “Chinese Chemical and Biological Warfare Capabilities,” in *China and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Implications for the United States*, U.S. National Intelligence Council, 05 November 1999.

<sup>41</sup> Eric Croddy, “China’s Role in the Chemical and Biological Disarmament Regimes,” *The Nonproliferation Review* (Spring 2002), p. 26.

<sup>42</sup> Ken Alibek, *Biohazard*, (Random House: New York, 1999), p. 273.

<sup>43</sup> Office of the Secretary of Defense, “2021 Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China,” *U.S. Department of Defense*, 03 November 2021, p. 95.

<sup>44</sup> See Eric Croddy, “Chinese Chemical and Biological Warfare Capabilities,” in *China and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Implications for the United States*, U.S. National Intelligence Council, 05 November 1999.

<sup>45</sup> R. Jeffrey Smith, “China May Have Revived Germ Weapons Program, U.S. Officials Say,” *The Washington Post*, 24 February 1993.

<sup>46</sup> Dany Shoham, “China’s Biological Warfare Programme: An Integrative Study with Special Reference to Biological Weapons Capabilities,” *Journal of Defence Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (April-June 2015), p. 137.

<sup>47</sup> Office of the Secretary of Defense, “2021 Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China,” *U.S. Department of Defense*, 03 November 2021, p. 95. It is worth noting that the PRC did not sign the BWC until 1984. When the BWC was signed in 1972 by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, the PRC delegation at the General Assembly attacked the convention as a “sham.” See, “Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,” U.S. Department of State Archive, <https://2001-2009.state.gov/t/ac/trt/4718.htm>.

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<sup>50</sup> “Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments,” *the U.S. Department of State*, April 2021, p. 46-47.

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid, p. 76.

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<sup>55</sup> Ibid, p. 4.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid, p. 4.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid, p. 3.

<sup>58</sup> The quoted text is “生物化战争将粉墨登场... 机械化之后是信息化, 信息化之后则是生物化... 科学技术首先最广泛运用于军事. 那么现在什么最发达, 什么发展得更迅猛呢? 那生物科学!” See, Mao Zhiwen (毛志文), “Expert: Biologized Warfare is On the Verge of Reaching a Critical Juncture” (专家: 生物化战争行将兵临城下), *The People’s Daily* reposted by the *People’s Liberation Army Daily*, 10 January 2014.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “科学家们长期的不懈探索求新, 使得基因芯片, 蛋白芯片等生物技术日臻成熟, 酶工程, 细胞工程等生物工程也层出不穷. 生物技术和生物工程的有机 ‘嫁接’, 在造福人类民生的同时, 也催生了一批又一批生物武器.”

<sup>60</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “可预测的生物化战争行将兵临城下.”

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<sup>62</sup> Elsa B. Kania and Wilson Vorndick, “Weaponizing Biotech: How China’s Military is Preparing for a ‘New Domain of Warfare’,” *Defense One*, 14 August 2019.

<sup>63</sup> Elsa B. Kania, “Minds at War: China’s Pursuit of Military Advantage through Cognitive Science and Biotechnology,” *PRISM Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (National Defense University: January 2020), p. 85, 91.

<sup>64</sup> Du’s book was published by White Mountain Press, the official publishing house for the PLA’s Shenyang Military Region that is managed by the Military Region Political Department.

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<sup>68</sup> Many thanks to retired U.S. Army Colonel and distinguished PLA scholar Dr. Larry Wortzel for providing this helpful analysis of Zhang’s and Du’s writings in conversations with Senator Rubio’s staff.

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<sup>75</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “一句话, 就是用 DNA 重组技术改变细菌或病毒, 使不致病的成为可致病的, 让可以用疫苗或药物预防和救治的疫病, 变得难于预防和治疗. 把这种生物战剂放入施放装置内, 就构成了基因武器.”

<sup>76</sup> Cao Shiyang (曹诗洋), “How Will Genetic Weapons Affect Future Warfare?” (基因武器如何影响未来战争), *The People’s Liberation Army Daily*, 10 November 2017.



<sup>77</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “基因武器是指通过基因编辑技术修改致病微生物的基因编码, 而研制出的新一代生物武器, 能够从基因层面对敌发动攻击. 简单来说, 基因编辑技术就相当于一把基因‘剪刀’, 可以按照主观意愿将一种生物的基因片段‘剪接’到另一种生物上, 从而改变其生理特征. 基因武器正是通过这种方式修改基因获得新的致病微生物, 从而使对方的疫苗库失效.”

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “由于基因武器是‘剪’出来的新病毒, 新细菌, 遗传密码只有设计者才知道, 对方很难及时破译并研制出新的疫苗与对抗. 即使更新了疫苗库, 仍有源源不断的新的基因武器‘整装待发’.”

<sup>79</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “如果操作不当或运气不佳, 运输过程中一旦发生泄漏, 伤到自己人, 无异于‘搬起石头砸自己的脚’.”

<sup>80</sup> The quote was excerpted from the following text: “当前基因组编辑, 合成生物学, 新型神经学等现代生物技术的发展十分迅速. 这些技术的发展也带来生物武器扩散, 生物恐怖袭击, 病原体跨物种感染, 跨地域传播等一系列重大安全问题.” See Guo Yanjiang (郭颜江), “The Militarization of Biotechnology,” (生物技术军事化), *Guancha Syndicate*, 21 February 2019.

<sup>81</sup> The quoted text is “内部监管漏洞风险.” See Wang Xiaoli (王小理) and Zhou Dongsheng (周冬生), “Looking toward International Biosecurity Situation in 2035,” (面向 2035 年的国际生物安全形势), *The Study Times* (学习时报), 20 December 2019. Note that *The Study Times* is published by the Central Party School of the CCP Central Committee.

<sup>82</sup> The quoted text is “原因很简单, 足够数量的人类遗传基因样本, 能够让一些国家研制出专门的‘基因武器’, 尤其是‘人种基因武器’, 或成为笼罩在世人头上新阴影, 让人不得不防.” Tan Xueping (谭雪平) and Yang Yu (杨宇), “Genetic Warfare: A New Shadow Enveloping Humanity” (基因战争, 笼罩人类的新阴影), *The People’s Liberation Army Daily*, 08 November 2018.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “有研究表明, 人类 DNA 中 99.7%至 99.9%都是相同的, 而这些占比很少的不同点, 才是将各个种族区分开来的关键. 因此, 每一个民族与人种都有独特的基因特征, 从理论层面而言, 根据这个特征就可以研制出杀伤预定种族对象的基因武器...”

<sup>84</sup> These new regulations updated and replaced provisional measures that were first put into effect in 1998. “Premier Li Keqiang Signs State Council Order announcing ‘the People’s Republic of China Human Hereditary Resources Management Regulations’” (李克强签署国务院令公布《中华人民共和国人类遗传资源管理条例》), *Xinhua News Agency* reprinted in the *People’s Liberation Army Daily*, 10 June 2019.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, “New scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention : background information document : addendum / submitted by the Implementation Support Unit,” Seventh Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, *United Nations Digital Library*, 23 November 2011, p. 2.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid, p. 2-3.

<sup>88</sup> Xu Dezhong (徐德忠) and Li Feng (李锋), eds., *The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Artificial Viruses as Genetic Weapons* (非典非自然起源和人制新种病毒基因武器) (Beijing, China: Academy of Military Medical Sciences Press, August 2015).

<sup>89</sup> When Australian journalist Sharri Markson reported on this book in 2021, some media outlets criticized her coverage as sensationalistic. To be clear, Senator Rubio’s staff read the original Chinese text and did not rely on Markson’s reporting for the analysis that appears here. *The Guardian* in its criticism of Markson’s reporting cited James Palmer who dismissed the PLA work as having a “strong conspiratorial bent.” *The Guardian* claimed the book had supposedly been “discredited,” but by whom *the Guardian* did not say. To be sure, the book’s thesis about the origin of SARS-CoV-1 flies in the face of accepted scientific opinion. For the purposes of this study, however, what matters is *not* what most virologists might make of its thesis, but rather the book’s reception within the PLA. The book bears the imprimatur of the PLA AMMS and was written and edited by a board of PLA specialists. Those two facts do not mean that the book represents the PLA’s final view on the matter, but nor do they allow us to dismiss the book as the idiosyncratic musings of fringe figures. The book was not a sensationalist title written for easy consumption by a general audience hungry for a compelling military conspiracy. Rather it is a dense and technical work that was published by an official PLA press, not a commercial outlet looking to turn a profit. In this regard,



Palmer's dismissal of the book is ill-considered. See, Amanda Meade and Daniel Hurst, "News Corp Exclusive on Chinese 'Bioweapons' Based on Discredited 2015 Book of Conspiracy Theories," *The Guardian*, 13 May 2021.

<sup>90</sup> Xu Dezhong (徐德忠) and Li Feng (李锋), eds., *The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Artificial Viruses as Genetic Weapons* (非典非自然起源和人制人新种病毒基因武器) (Beijing, China: Academy of Military Medical Sciences Press, August 2015), pg. 40-42.

<sup>91</sup> Frederick Chi-Ching Leung, et. al., "Evidence of the Recombinant Origin of a Bat Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)-Like Coronavirus and Its Implications on the Direct Ancestor of SARS Coronavirus," *Journal of Virology*, February 2008, 82(4): 1819-1826. Note that 4.08 years was actually the median estimate.

<sup>92</sup> The quoted text is "SARS-CoV 这 4 年多之进化时间不可能发生在自然界, 唯可能出现在人工设置场所内, 应用人工技术..." Xu Dezhong (徐德忠) and Li Feng (李锋), eds., *The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Artificial Viruses as Genetic Weapons* (非典非自然起源和人制人新种病毒基因武器) (Beijing, China: Academy of Military Medical Sciences Press, August 2015), pg. 41.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid, pg. 47-48. The quoted text is "1. 应用最新的基因改造技术, 将动物病毒和人类病毒进行重组, 并在和人类最类似的组织细胞内传代, 增强其对与人类亲近的动物致病性, 直至可攻击人. 2. 将动物病原体 (目前主要为病毒) 以各种方式和途径, 攻击与人类细胞受体十分相似的或与人类近亲的动物, 并做多种多样的许多次传代, 最终使之适应在该种动物群体内传播, 再通过类似方式部分适应于人群. 笔者暂称为 '人制人病原体动物群体性适应试验.' 3. 兼用上述 2 种方法."

<sup>94</sup> Ibid, p. 97. For the original study, see Yoshihiro Kawaoka, et. al., "Experimental Adaptation of an Influenza H5 HA Confers Respiratory Droplet Transmission to a Reassortant H5 HA/H1N1 Virus in Ferrets," *Nature*, 486, pg. 420-428, 02 May 2012.

<sup>95</sup> Xu Dezhong (徐德忠) and Li Feng (李锋), eds., *The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Artificial Viruses as Genetic Weapons* (非典非自然起源和人制人新种病毒基因武器) (Beijing, China: Academy of Military Medical Sciences Press, August 2015), pg. 13-14, 51, 59, 84-85, 94-97.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid, pg. 51.

<sup>97</sup> Byung Uk Lee, "Minimum Sizes of Respiratory Particles Carrying SARS-CoV-2 and the Possibility of Aerosol Generation," *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 2020 Oct; 17(19): 6960. Published online 23 September 2020.

<sup>98</sup> For an excellent analysis of the WIV's published work that demonstrates their proficiency with these gain-of-function techniques, see Yuri Deigin, "Lab-Made? SARS-CoV-2 Genealogy Through the Lens of Gain-of-Function Research," *Medium.com*, 22 April 2020.

<sup>99</sup> Xu Dezhong (徐德忠) and Li Feng (李锋), eds., *The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Artificial Viruses as Genetic Weapons* (非典非自然起源和人制人新种病毒基因武器) (Beijing, China: Academy of Military Medical Sciences Press, August 2015), pg. 62.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid, pg. 58.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid, pg. 47.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid, pg. 61-62.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid, pg. 43, 100-103.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid, pg. 43-44.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid, pg. 84-85.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid, pg. 85. The quoted text is "使用当代基因武器之目的主要不是军事企图, 而是重要的恐怖威胁, 政治和地区或国际战略需求."

<sup>108</sup> Ibid, pg. 59. The quoted text is "政治斗争." While he did not mention biowarfare, Xi Jinping would deliver an entire speech dedicated to "political struggle" in 2019. See, "Xi Jinping Delivers Important Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Central Party School's (Chinese Academy of Governance) Young Cadres Training Class" (习近平在中央党校 (国家行政学院) 中青年干部培训班开班式上发表重要讲话), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 03 September 2019.

<sup>109</sup> The quoted text is "若采用当代基因武器, 则隐蔽, 难于取证; 即使提供学术证据甚至病毒和动物等实证, 亦可百般抵赖, 阻止和压制, 使国际组织和争议人士无可奈何." Xu Dezhong (徐德忠) and Li Feng (李锋), eds., *The*

*Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Artificial Viruses as Genetic Weapons* (非典非自然起源和人制人新种病毒基因武器) (Beijing, China: Academy of Military Medical Sciences Press, August 2015), pg. 85.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid, pg. 86. The quoted text is “当代基因武器则高明得多, 使靶目标区意想不到, 防不胜防, 甚至思想混乱, 不明白真相; 更不堪设想和令人痛心的是, 可能个别人盲目地认为现在不具备生产和施放‘当代基因武器’的企图和条件, 其结果无意地, 或多或少地妨碍了对基因武器施放来源之查寻。”

<sup>111</sup> Ibid, pg. 90.

<sup>112</sup> The quoted text is “基因武器难以检测, 难以预防, 难以隔离, 而且成本极低...” See, Zhang Qiang (张强), “Genetic Weapons: a Pandora’s Box Worthy of Vigilance” (基因武器: 值得警惕的“潘多拉”魔盒), *Science and Technology Daily* reprinted in the *PLA Daily*, 06 November 2017.

<sup>113</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan* (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), pg. 312.

<sup>114</sup> For Li’s affiliation, see the page “Editorial Committee Members Division of Labor and Institutional Affiliations, Titles” (编委会成员分工和单位, 职称) at the beginning of *The Unnatural Origin of SARS and New Species of Artificial Viruses as Genetic Weapons*. No page number was given.

<sup>115</sup> The quoted text is “病原溯源与快速检测.” See “Academy of Military Medical Science Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology Researcher Yang Ruifu Invited to Deliver the Ge Hong Lecture” (军事医学科学院微生物流行病学研究所杨瑞馥研究员受邀葛洪论坛), *Wuhan Institute of Virology*, 09 December 2016.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid. Interestingly, Yang’s lecture reportedly did not focus on viral pathogens, but rather on the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, the causative agent of the plague, with a secondary discussion of two other bacteria, *vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *escherichia coli* (O104:H4).

<sup>117</sup> For an early example in which Dr. Yang partnered with six WIV researchers, see Dian-Bing Wang, Ruifu Yang, Zhi-Ping Zhang, et. al., “Detection of B. Anthracis Spores and Vegetative Cells with the Same Monoclonal Antibodies,” *PLOS One*, 4(11): e7810, 13 November 2009. For a more recent example of Yang’s collaboration with nine other PLA researchers and two researchers at the WIV, see Jing Yuan, Xiao Wei, Xiangna Zhao, et. al., “High Alcohol-Producing Klebsiella Pneumonia is a Bacterial Culprit of Fatty Liver Disease,” *Cell Metabolism*, 01 October 2019; 30(4): pg. 675-688, online publication 19 September 2019. The most recent example we could identify was Yang partnering with the WIV’s Shi Zhengli. See Nils Chr. Stenseth, Guha Dharmarajan, Ruiyun Li, Zheng-li Shi, Ruifu Yang, and George F. Gao, “Lessons Learnt From the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Frontiers in Public Health Journal*, Volume: 9, 02 August 2021.

<sup>118</sup> Katherine Eban, “The Lab Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19’s Origins,” *Vanity Fair*, 03 June 2021.

<sup>119</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan* (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), pg. 313-314.

<sup>120</sup> “Xi Jinping Signs Order Giving Meritorious Service Award to One Work Unit and 24 Individuals,” (习近平签署通令给 1 单位 24 个人记功), *Xinhua News Agency* reprinted in the *People’s Liberation Army Daily*, 27 August 2014.

<sup>121</sup> Richard P. Suttmeier, Cong Cao, and Denis Fred Simon, “China’s Innovation Challenge and the Remaking of the Chinese Academy of Sciences,” *Innovations Journal* (Summer 2006), MIT University Press: Cambridge, MA, p. 79-80.

<sup>122</sup> Hans Kühner, “Between Autonomy and Planning: The Chinese Academy of Science in Transition,” *Minerva*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (March 1984), p.13.

<sup>123</sup> Jordan Wilson, “Experts in Defense: How China’s Academicians Contribute to its Defense Science and Technology Development,” *SITC Research Briefs*, No. 10, University of California San Diego, 10 January 2015, p. 2; and Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, “Reform of China’s Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era,” *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3 (August 2018), p. 137.

<sup>124</sup> Jordan Wilson, “Experts in Defense: How China’s Academicians Contribute to its Defense Science and Technology Development,” *SITC Research Briefs*, No. 10, University of California San Diego, 10 January 2015, p. 2.

<sup>125</sup> Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, “Reform of China’s Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era,” *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3, August 2018, p. 137.

<sup>126</sup> The Chinese is “中国科学院武汉病毒研究所.”

<sup>127</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, *Fortifying China: The Struggle to Build a Modern Defense Economy*, Cornell Univ. Press: Ithaca, NY, 2009, p. 89.

<sup>128</sup> In the words of two Chinese scholars: “China’s state-led system positions a top-down approach with the party-state as the key driver of S&TI development and emphasizes the central leadership and coordination.” See Yutao

Sun and Cong Cao, "Planning for Science: China's 'Grand Experiment' and Global Implications," *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications Journal*, Vol. 8, Article Number: 215, 20 September 2021.

<sup>129</sup> For an example of the lack of independence in universities, see Anna Fifield, "In Xi Jinping's China, a Top University can No Longer Promise Freedom of Thought," *The Washington Post*, 18 December 2019.

<sup>130</sup> Hans Kühner, "Between Autonomy and Planning: The Chinese Academy of Science in Transition," *Minerva*, Vol. 22, No. 1, March 1984, p. 23.

<sup>131</sup> "Threats to the U.S. Research Enterprise: China's Talent Recruitment Plans," Staff Report of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the U.S. Senate, January 2020, p. 23-24.

<sup>132</sup> See "State Council Organization Chart," the official website of *The State Council of the People's Republic of China*, 28 August 2014.

<sup>133</sup> Office of the Secretary of Defense, "2019 Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China," *U.S. Department of Defense*, 02 May 2019, p. 97-98.

<sup>134</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, *Fortifying China: The Struggle to Build a Modern Defense Economy* (Cornell Univ. Press: Ithaca, NY, 2009), p. 205.

<sup>135</sup> The Office of the Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State, "Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," *U.S. Department of State*, 15 January 2021; Eva Dou, "Wuhan Lab's Classified Work Complicates Search for Pandemic's Origins," *The Washington Post*, 22 June 2021.

<sup>136</sup> For an example, see Xi Jinping's 2018 speech to CAS and CAE researchers, particularly passages such as "广大工程科技工作者既要有工匠精神, 又要有团结精神, 围绕国家重大战略需求, 瞄准经济建设和事关国家安全的重大工程科技问题, 紧贴新时代社会民生现实需求和军民融合需求, 加快自主创新成果转化应用, 在前瞻性, 战略性领域打好主动仗." See, "Xi Jinping: Speech to the Chinese Academy of Sciences' 19th Plenary Meeting of Academicians and the Chinese Academy of Engineering's 14th Plenary Meeting of Academicians" (习近平: 在中国科学院第十九次院士大会, 中国工程院第十四次院士大会上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 28 May 2018.

<sup>137</sup> There are numerous published studies that involve PLA-CAS research collaboration, including many cited throughout this report, but for a very recent example of an ongoing PLA-CAS partnership, see the December 2021 study on colonic inflammatory disorders conducted by a 12-person research group at the PLA AMMS led by Zhang Lingqiang, and a 7-person research group at the CAS Institute of Microbiology led by Liu Cuihua. Notice that the journal omits the AMMS affiliation from the description of the authors on Zhang's team. Omissions occur frequently when authors from AMMS and other PLA institutions publish in English language journals. Bo Wu, Lihua Qiang, Yong Zhang, et. al., "The Deubiquitinase OTUD1 Inhibits Colonic Inflammation by Suppressing RIPK1-Mediated NF-κB Signaling," *Cellular & Molecular Immunology*, Volume 19, 07 December 2021, pg. 276-289.

<sup>138</sup> For an example, see "Suzhou Institute of Nano-Tech and Nano-Bionics Holds Academic Conference and Ceremony to Appoint Gao Zhixian of the Chinese Academy of Military Medical Science a Visiting Researcher," (苏州纳米所举行中国军事医学科学院高志贤客座研究员聘任仪式暨学术报告会), *Nanjing Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences*, 17 December 2013.

<sup>139</sup> For a reference to the PLA No. 306 Hospital undergoing joint training with the CAS Institute of Biophysics, see AMMS authors Li Xiang (李翔), Tan Bin (谈彬), Xu Chi (徐池), Xu Tianhao (徐天昊), and Mao Junwen (毛军文), "Thoughts on Promoting Deep Military-Civil Fusion Development in Biopharmaceutical Science and Technology" (推进生物医药科技军民融合深度发展的思考), *Chinese Journal of Medical Science Research Management* (中华医学科研管理杂志), Vol. 31, No. 4 (31 August 2018), p. 246.

<sup>140</sup> For an example involving experts in synthetic biology and precision medicine, see "Academy of Military Medical Science Institute of Bioengineering Researcher and Professor Ye Qinong Visits the Institute of Biomedical Engineering for Exchange" (军事医学科学院生物工程研究所研究员叶棋浓教授到医工所交流访问), *Suzhou Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Technology Chinese Academy of Sciences*, 11 July 2016.

<sup>141</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, *Fortifying China: The Struggle to Build a Modern Defense Economy* (Cornell Univ. Press: Ithaca, NY, 2009), p. 205.

<sup>142</sup> Jordan Wilson, "Experts in Defense: How China's Academicians Contribute to its Defense Science and Technology Development," *SITC Research Briefs*, No. 10, University of California San Diego, 10 January 2015, p. 7-8.

<sup>143</sup> For an example of a contemporaneous intelligence report from 1960, since declassified, which referenced the role of CAS in developing the PRC's nuclear weapons, see "The Chinese Communist Atomic Energy Program,"



*Tracking the Dragon: National Intelligence Estimates on China During the Era of Mao, 1948-1976*, Government Printing Office: Pittsburgh, PA, October 2004, p. 295.

<sup>144</sup> For a recent example in which Xi Jinping invokes the legacy of CAS in the nuclear weapons program, see "Scientific and Technological Innovation, a Powerful Engine for a World-Class Military – The Fourth Document on the Leadership and Promotion of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its Core and the Strengthening of the Military and Revitalization of the Military" (科技创新，迈向世界一流军队的强大引擎——以习近平同志为核心的党中央领导和推进强军兴军纪实之四), *Xinhua News Agency* posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 15 September 2017.

<sup>145</sup> Nicholas D. Kristof, "Nie Rongzhen, 93, Last Marshal Of China's Communist Revolution," *The New York Times*, 16 May 1992.

<sup>146</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, *Fortifying China: The Struggle to Build a Modern Defense Economy*, Cornell Univ. Press: Ithaca, NY, 2009, p. 50.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid*, p. 205.

<sup>148</sup> Evan A. Feigenbaum, "Who's Behind China's High-Technology 'Revolution'?": How Bomb Makers Remade Beijing's Priorities, Policies, and Institutions," *International Security*, MIT Press: Cambridge, MA: Summer 1999, Vol. 24, No. 1, p. 112.

<sup>149</sup> Yangyang Cheng, "When Scientists Become Soldiers," *University of Chicago Magazine*, Fall 2021, Volume 114, Number 1; and "Chinese Nuclear Program," *Atomic Heritage Foundation* (Online), 19 July 2018.

<sup>150</sup> The quoted text is "毛主席高兴地对钱学森说：'听说美国人把你当成五个师呢！我看呀，对我们来说，你比五个师的力量大得多。'" See, "Recollections of Qian Xuesen: Two Bombs, One Satellite, A Miracle Forged through Loving Care" (回忆钱学森：两弹一星，关怀铸就奇迹), *Niucheng Evening News* reposted on the *Chinese Academy of Engineering* (Online), 03 March 2015.

<sup>151</sup> Evan A. Feigenbaum, "Who's Behind China's High-Technology 'Revolution'?": How Bomb Makers Remade Beijing's Priorities, Policies, and Institutions," *International Security*, MIT Press: Cambridge, MA: Summer 1999, Vol. 24, No. 1, p. 109; Michael Pillsbury, *The Hundred-Year Marathon*, Henry Holt and Company, New York: 2015, p. 139-140.

<sup>152</sup> Evan A. Feigenbaum, "Who's Behind China's High-Technology 'Revolution'?": How Bomb Makers Remade Beijing's Priorities, Policies, and Institutions," *International Security*, MIT Press: Cambridge, MA: Summer 1999, Vol. 24, No. 1, p. 109.

<sup>153</sup> *Ibid*, p. 110.

<sup>154</sup> "Faculty and Students at Wuhan Institute of Virology Assemble to Watch the 2018 National Broadcast of Teaching and Educational Lectures on Building Scientific Ethics and Academic Discipline" (武汉病毒所师生集中观看 2018 年全国科学道德和学风建设宣讲教育报告会直播), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 16 October 2018.

<sup>155</sup> It is worth noting that the 719 Research Institute appears on the U.S. Department of Commerce Entity List, to which U.S. exports are restricted without a license. No such restrictions at present apply to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. See 83424 Federal Register, Vol. 85, No. 246, December 22, 2020, Rules and Regulations.

<sup>156</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, *Fortifying China: The Struggle to Build a Modern Defense Economy*, Cornell Univ. Press: Ithaca, NY, 2009, p. 67.

<sup>157</sup> It is worth adding that the 719 Research Institute also belongs to the state-owned China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation. For more information, see "Wuhan Second Ship Design and Research Institute (719 Institute)" [武汉第二船舶设计研究所 (719 所)], *Hubei Provincial People's Government* (Online), 09 July 2015.

<sup>158</sup> Jordan Wilson, "Experts in Defense: How China's Academicians Contribute to its Defense Science and Technology Development," *SITC Research Briefs*, No. 10, University of California San Diego, 10 January 2015, p. 2.

<sup>159</sup> Kenneth Allen and Mingzhi Chen, "The People's Liberation Army's Academic Institutions," *Air University China Aerospace Studies Institute* (Online), 11 June 2020, p. 123, 192, 219, and 223.

<sup>160</sup> Kevin Pollpeter and Kenneth W. Allen, eds, *The PLA as Organization v2.0*, Defense Technical Information Center (Online), 14 June 2012, p. 248, 256.

<sup>161</sup> Jordan Wilson, "Experts in Defense: How China's Academicians Contribute to its Defense Science and Technology Development," *SITC Research Briefs*, No. 10, University of California San Diego, 10 January 2015, p. 4; and Tai Ming Cheung, "Keeping Up with the Jundui: Reforming the Chinese Defense Acquisition, Technology and Industrial System," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 592.

- <sup>162</sup> Jordan Wilson, "Experts in Defense: How China's Academicians Contribute to its Defense Science and Technology Development," *SITC Research Briefs*, No. 10, University of California San Diego, 10 January 2015, p. 4.
- <sup>163</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, "Keeping Up with the *Jundui*: Reforming the Chinese Defense Acquisition, Technology and Industrial System," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 594.
- <sup>164</sup> See, "AWARDEE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND MATERIA MEDICA PRIZE: WU ZUZE," *The HoLeung Ho Lee Foundation* (Online), 2006; Shen Jifei (沈基飞) and Zhao Feng (赵锋), "'The Chinese Father of Blood Generating Stem Cells' Wu Zuze Has a Minor Planet Named After Him" (中国新闻网: '中国造血干细胞之父' 吴祖泽获小行星命名), *China News* re-posted on the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 30 November 2015.
- <sup>165</sup> Ibid; and "Wu Zuze," *China Vitae* (Online), last accessed on 20 May 2022.
- <sup>166</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, "Keeping Up with the *Jundui*: Reforming the Chinese Defense Acquisition, Technology and Industrial System," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 616-617.
- <sup>167</sup> Ibid, p. 599. In addition, see Xi's speech to the All-Military Equipment Work Conference on December 3, 2014, an excerpt from which can be found in *Selections from Xi Jinping's Discourse on the Holistic View of National Security* (习近平关于总体国家安全观论述摘编), Central Party Literature Press, Beijing: 01 April 2018, p. 57.
- <sup>168</sup> Greg Levesque, "Commercialized Militarization: China's Military-Civil Fusion Strategy," *The National Bureau of Asian Research* (Online), 30 June 2021.
- <sup>169</sup> Hui-Ming Tung (董慧明), *The Metamorphosis and Development of Mainland China's National Defense Science and Technology Industry* (中国大陆国防科技工业的蜕变与发展), (Wunan Publishing Company: Taipei, April 2019), p. 72-73.
- <sup>170</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, "Keeping Up with the *Jundui*: Reforming the Chinese Defense Acquisition, Technology and Industrial System," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 598-599.
- <sup>171</sup> Quoted in Brian Lafferty, "Civil-Military Integration and PLA Reforms," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 629-630.
- <sup>172</sup> Ibid, p. 634.
- <sup>173</sup> "Intel Brief: China's Military-Civil Fusion Strategy," *The Soufan Center* (Online), 13 August 2020.
- <sup>174</sup> Emily de La Bruyere and Nathan Picarsic, "Defusing Military-Civil Fusion," *The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies* (Online), 27 May 2021; and "The Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Military Sciences Sign Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement" (中科院与军事科学院签署战略合作框架协议), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 23 March 2018.
- <sup>175</sup> Bai Chunli (白春礼), "New Trends in Science and Technology Development that will Form the Future (The Trend of the Times)" (创造未来的科技发展新趋势, 大势所趋), *The People's Daily*, 05 July 2015.
- <sup>176</sup> Timothy R. Heath, Kristen Gunness, and Cortez A. Cooper, *The PLA and China's Rejuvenation*, RAND National Defense Research Institute: Santa Monica, 2016, p. 41.
- <sup>177</sup> The quoted text is "现在, 我军人才队伍规模有了很大改善, 但战略科学家, 科技帅才十分匮乏, 领军人才, 尖子人才十分缺乏." See "Scientific and Technological Innovation, a Powerful Engine for a World-Class Military – The Fourth Document on the Leadership and Promotion of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its Core and the Strengthening of the Military and Revitalization of the Military" (科技创新, 迈向世界一流军队的强大引擎——以习近平同志为核心的党中央领导和推进强军兴军纪实之四), *Xinhua News Agency* posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 15 September 2017.
- <sup>178</sup> Brian Lafferty, "Civil-Military Integration and PLA Reforms," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 630-632.
- <sup>179</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, *Fortifying China: The Struggle to Build a Modern Defense Economy*, (Cornell Univ. Press: Ithaca, NY, 2009), p. 205.
- <sup>180</sup> Alex Stone and Peter Wood, "China's Military-Civil Fusion Strategy: A View from Chinese Strategists," *China Aerospace Studies Institute of the Air University* (Online), 15 June 2020, p. 12. Note that in keeping with the 2017

reforms, the PLA Academy of Military Medical Sciences, the WIV's main partner, and the PLA Institute for Chemical Defense are now incorporated into the PLA Academy of Military Science.

<sup>181</sup> The quoted text is drawn from “根据协议，未来双方将重点围绕联合建设高端战略智库、联合开展项目合作研究、共同推动协同创新平台建设、联合培养人才和促进人员交流等方面深化合作。” See, “The Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Military Sciences Sign Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement” (中科院与军事科学院签署战略合作框架协议), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 23 March 2018.

<sup>182</sup> Ibid.

<sup>183</sup> The quoted text is “把军民融合发展上升为国家战略，是我们长期探索经济建设和国防建设协调发展规律的重大成果... 是应对复杂安全威胁，赢得国家战略优势的重大举措... 加快形成全要素，多领域，高效益的军民融合深度发展格局，逐步构建军民一体化的国家战略体系和能力。” *Selections from Xi Jinping's Discourse on the Holistic View of National Security* (习近平关于总体国家安全观论述摘编), Central Party Literature Press, Beijing: 01 April 2018, p. 65. Xi delivered the speech on 20 June 2017.

<sup>184</sup> The quoted text is “海洋，太空，网路空间，生物，新能源等领域军民共用行强，要在筹划设计，组织实施，成果使用全过程贯彻军民融合理念和要求，抓紧解决好突出问题，加快形成多维一体，协同推进，跨越发展的新兴领域军民融合发展格局。” Quoted in “Academician Li Chongyin Interprets Xi Jinping's Thought on Science and Technology Innovation,” *China Science Daily* (中国科学报), 21 February 2019.

<sup>185</sup> See, “Xi Jinping Attends Plenary Meeting of the People's Liberation Army Delegation” (习近平出席解放军代表团全体会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 12 March 2017.

<sup>186</sup> The quoted text is “也要发挥中科院，高等院校，民口和民营企业的潜力，最大限度实现民为军用。” Xinhua did not include this line from Xi's remarks in its news report of the meeting. Xi's speeches generally appear in a redacted form in the summaries and transcripts issued by the PRC state media. Senator Rubio's staff, however, obtained a report internal to the PLA that included the quoted text.

<sup>187</sup> Ibid. The text from which the quote was taken is “要借助地方科研院所，装备研制单位等的科技优势。”

<sup>188</sup> The quoted text is “当年，如果没有钱学森，钱三强，邓稼先等一批科学大家，‘两弹一星’是搞不出来的。” See “Scientific and Technological Innovation, a Powerful Engine for a World-Class Military – The Fourth Document on the Leadership and Promotion of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its Core and the Strengthening of the Military and Revitalization of the Military” (科技创新，迈向世界一流军队的强大引擎——以习近平同志为核心的党中央领导和推进强军兴军纪实之四), *Xinhua News Agency* posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 15 September 2017.

<sup>189</sup> Wei Hongtao (魏宏涛), “How to Transform the Research and Development Results of the Chinese Academy of Sciences into Military Products?” (如何将中科院的科研成果转化为军品), *The People's Liberation Army Daily*, 16 December 2017.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “做出了不可替代的重要贡献。”

<sup>191</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “除参与重大国防科技专项的明星技术外，在庞大的中科院科研系统内部，还有海量的科研成果。其中许多优秀技术不仅民用价值极大，军用前景也十分广阔。”

<sup>192</sup> Ibid.

<sup>193</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “科研院所在参与军民融合的过程中，务必坚持军事需求为牵引。”

<sup>194</sup> The quoted text is “我们着力推动经济建设和国防建设融合发展，深化国防科技工业体制改革，提高军民协同创新能力，完善军民协同创新机制。” See “Xi Jinping: Speech to the Chinese Academy of Sciences' 19th Plenary Meeting of Academicians and the Chinese Academy of Engineering's 14th Plenary Meeting of Academicians” (习近平：在中国科学院第十九次院士大会、中国工程院第十四次院士大会上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 28 May 2018.

<sup>195</sup> Ibid. Note that Xi is talking about pooling personnel and resources from the civilian world and the military and the two-way transfer of technologies with dual applications between them, not helping individuals make a career transition between the two. The quoted text is “要加快构建军民融合发展体系... 清除“民参军，”“军转民”障碍。”

<sup>196</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, “Keeping Up with the *Jundui*: Reforming the Chinese Defense Acquisition, Technology and Industrial System,” in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 600.



<sup>197</sup> The quoted phrase is “孕育新的变革.” See “Xi Jinping: Speech to the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ 19th Plenary Meeting of Academicians and the Chinese Academy of Engineering’s 14th Plenary Meeting of Academicians” (习近平：在中国科学院第十九次院士大会、中国工程院第十四次院士大会上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 28 May 2018.

<sup>198</sup> For a general record of the speech, see “Xi Jinping Attends Plenary Meeting of the People’s Liberation Army Delegation” (习近平出席解放军代表团全体会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 12 March 2017. The quotes were extracted from the following clauses and sentences: “推动科技兴军,” and “特别是人工智能, 网路信息, 生物交叉, 微纳材料等前沿科技领域, 各大国展开激烈角逐,” and “我们必须增强紧迫感.”

<sup>199</sup> The quoted text is “生物医药科技领域进行军民融合得到高层广泛认可.” See, Li Xiang (李翔), Tan Bin (谈彬), Xu Chi (徐池), Xu Tianhao (徐天昊), and Mao Junwen (毛军文), “Thoughts on Promoting Deep Military-Civil Fusion Development in Biopharmaceutical Science and Technology” (推进生物医药科技军民融合深度发展的思考), *Chinese Journal of Medical Science Research Management* (中华医学科研管理杂志), Vol. 31, No. 4, 31 August 2018, p. 245.

<sup>200</sup> Ibid, p. 246. The quoted text is “生物医药科技军民通用性强, 具有天然的军民融合属性, 易于融合, 故通过加强军地联合, 互通有无, 协调统筹... 发挥各方优势力量, 实现从科研计划, 项目申报, 合作研发, 成果应用, 资源共享等全链条融合.”

<sup>201</sup> Ibid, p. 248. The quoted text is “将生物医药科技领域军民融合作为指导国家实验室建立的重要依据与任务目标,” and “加快向战斗力, 保障力与生产力转化.”

<sup>202</sup> The quoted text is “加快军民深度融合发展.” See, “The General Office of the CCP Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council Release the ‘Overall Plan Regarding the Systematic Promotion of Comprehensive Innovation Reform Experiments in Some Areas’” (中共中央办公厅、国务院办公厅印发“关于在部分区域系统推进全面创新改革试验的总体方案”), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 07 September 2015.

<sup>203</sup> The quoted text is “国家军民融合创新示范区” and “促进军民融合深度发展, 支持军民两用技术双向转移转化.” See, General Office of the Wuhan Municipal People’s Government, “Wuhan Municipal 2020 Government Work Report” (武汉市 2020 年政府工作报告), *Wuhan Municipal People’s Government* (Online), 11 January 2020.

<sup>204</sup> The quoted text is “与其他行业相比, 生物医药行业发展更加薄弱, 研究所建设生物安全大科学中心, 要面向国民经济主战场, 契合国家需求, 在解决人类疫病及保护国家生物安全上发挥重要作用.” See, “The Party Branch of the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Research Center for Molecular Virology Convenes Special Organizational Life Meeting on ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所分子病毒学研究中心党支部召开“不忘初心, 牢记使命”专题组织生活会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 29 September 2018.

<sup>205</sup> David Cyranoski, “Inside the Chinese Lab Poised to Study the World’s Most Dangerous Pathogens,” *Nature* 542, pages 399–400 (2017), 23 February 2017.

<sup>206</sup> Tai Ming Cheung, “Keeping Up with the *Jundui*: Reforming the Chinese Defense Acquisition, Technology and Industrial System,” in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders, et al., Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2019, p. 597.

<sup>207</sup> Ryan Clarke and Lam Peng Er, “Coronavirus Research in China: Origins, International Networks, and Consequences,” Non-Traditional Security (NTS)-Asia Consortium, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 20 May 2021, p. 16. Clarke clarified to Senator Rubio’s staff that he had personally observed the now deleted reference to the Military Management Division on the WIV’s website.

<sup>208</sup> See Fang Li, Et. al., “Molecular Mechanism for Antibody-Dependent Enhancement of Coronavirus Entry,” *Journal of Virology*, Volume 94, Issue 5, March 2020.

<sup>209</sup> See Ke Peng and Wei Liu, Et. al., “Calcium Channel Blockers Reduce Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome Virus (SFTSV) Related Fatality,” *Cell Research*, Volume 29, 23 August 2019, pg. 739–753.

<sup>210</sup> Ibid. The researchers from the PLA AMMS Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology were Li Hao, Zhang Shaofei, Dai Ke, Hu Yuanyuan, Wang Zhibo, Zhang Panhe, and Liu Wei. Two researchers from the PLA 154 Hospital, Cui Ning and Yuan Chun, also participated in the study as did Bai Jieying from the AMMS Laboratory Animal Center. It is worth noting that the WIV research group included Xiao Gengfu, the Secretary-General of the CCP Committee at the WIV.

<sup>211</sup> Note that Peter Daszak of the EcoHealth Alliance was a coauthor and the direct recipient of the U.S. government funding. Daszak worked with the WIV as a sub-grantee. See Zhou Peng, Fan Hang, Yang Xinglou, Et. al., "Fatal Swine Acute Diarrhea Syndrome Caused by an HKU2-related Coronavirus of Bat Origin," *Nature*, Volume 556, 04 April 2018, pg. 255-258.

<sup>212</sup> See "Wuhan Institute of Virology's Researcher Wang Hanzhong Wins First Class Award from the Chinese People's Liberation Army for Medical Achievements" (武汉病毒所王汉中研究员获中国人民解放军医疗成果一等奖), Wuhan Institute of Virology (Online), 30 November 2015.

<sup>213</sup> The Office of the Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State, "Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," *U.S. Department of State* (Online), 15 January 2021.

<sup>214</sup> Sharri Markson and Ashleigh Gleeson, "The Covid Files: How the Red Army Oversaw Coronavirus Research," *The Daily Telegraph*, 11 May 2020.

<sup>215</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), pg. 279, 316.

<sup>216</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 369-372.

<sup>217</sup> See "Scientists Make Major Breakthrough in a Design Element of Vaccine for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome" (科学家在中东呼吸综合征冠状病毒疫苗设计方面取得重大突破), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 25 November 2016.

<sup>218</sup> According to his profile on the WIV website, Qiu studied at the PLA AMMS Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology from January 2013 to December 2017. See "Doctoral Advisors: Qiu Yang" (博士生导师: 邱洋), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 24 December 2020.

<sup>219</sup> Sun Xingwei (孙兴维) and Zhang Zhenwei (张振威), "Group of Military Experts Storm Deep into the Epidemic Area, Tent-Style Mobile Testing Labs Enter Operations" (军队专家组深入疫区攻关 帐篷式移动检测实验室投入运行), *People's Liberation Army Daily*, 31 January 2020.

<sup>220</sup> Minnie Chan and William Zheng, "Meet the Major General on China's Coronavirus Scientific Front Line," *The South China Morning Post*, 03 March 2020; Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), pg. 358, 364; Anna Fifield, "'Wolf Warrior' Strives to Make China First with Coronavirus Vaccine," *The Washington Post*, 22 March 2020.

<sup>221</sup> A British journalist with nearly two decades of experience reporting from Beijing for the *South China Morning Post* noted that the outside world did not know until after the fall of the Soviet Union that its bioweapons program, Biopreparat, had used influenza preparedness as a pretext to provide plausible deniability for its covert efforts to develop bioweapons at ostensibly civilian research facilities like the WIV. Chen's assignment to take over the WIV could suggest that the PLA had a similar presence at the WIV. See, Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 168.

<sup>222</sup> The quoted text is "建立完善国家和军队协作的全国分级实验室工作网." See, Wei Xiaoqing (魏晓青) and Wang Yumin (王玉民), "The Realistic Threat of Biological Terrorism and Medical Countermeasures" (生物恐怖的现实威胁与医学对策), *China Military Science* (中国军事科学), Volume 32, No. 3, June 2008, p. 282-283.

<sup>223</sup> *Ibid*, p. 283. The quoted text is "军民结合的原则" and "建设必要的高等级生物安全 (BSL-3 和 BSL-4) 实验室, 并加强这些实验室的设施和技术装备建设, 提高重要病原微生物实验室监测, 检测能力."

<sup>224</sup> The WIV's BSL-4 lab was approved in 2003 and construction began in 2004. See, David Cyranoski, "Inside the Chinese Lab Poised to Study the World's Most Dangerous Pathogens," *Nature* 542, pages 399-400 (2017), 23 February 2017.

<sup>225</sup> Rodolphe de Maistre, Gilles Demaneuf, and Billy Bostickson, "Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co.," *Research Gate*, preprint March 2021, p. 5.

<sup>226</sup> Sinopharm, in turn, answers to the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the PRC State Council. For the ownership structure, see "Brief Survey of the Enterprise" (企业概况), *Wuhan Institute of Biological Products* (武汉生物制品研究所有限责任公司) (Online), last accessed on 27 March 2022.

<http://www.wibp.com.cn/Chs/Detail.aspx?id=1>

<sup>227</sup> Rodolphe de Maistre, Gilles Demaneuf, and Billy Bostickson, "Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co.," *Research Gate*, preprint March 2021, p. 13.

<sup>228</sup> *Ibid*, p. 14-15.

<sup>229</sup> “‘Wuhan Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Coalition’ is Founded in Wuhan” (‘武汉新发传染病研究联盟’在汉成立), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 16 December 2008.

<sup>230</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Strengthens Cooperation and Exchange with the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products,” (武汉病毒所加强与武汉生物制品研究所的合作交流), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 10 June 2014.

<sup>231</sup> Eric Croddey, “Chinese Chemical and Biological Warfare Capabilities,” in *China and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Implications for the United States*, U.S. National Intelligence Council, 05 November 1999.

<sup>232</sup> Eric Croddey, “China’s Role in the Chemical and Biological Disarmament Regimes,” *The Nonproliferation Review*, Spring 2002, p. 27-28.

<sup>233</sup> Dany Shoham, “China’s Biological Warfare Programme: An Integrative Study with Special Reference to Biological Weapons Capabilities,” *Journal of Defence Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 2, April-June 2015, p. 141-144, 148.

<sup>234</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 142. These agents reportedly include anthrax, plague, brucellosis, botulinum, SARS, yellow fever, Hantan virus, Japanese encephalitis, tick-borne encephalitis, typhoid, and dysentery.

<sup>235</sup> “The Unfolding of China’s Changsheng Vaccine Scandal,” *Reuters*, 24 July 2018. Yang Wanli, “Wuhan Vaccine Factory Restarted,” *The China Daily*, 27 July 2018.

<sup>236</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 62.

<sup>237</sup> Yang Wanli, “Wuhan Vaccine Factory Restarted,” *The China Daily*, 27 July 2018.

<sup>238</sup> Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, “Reform of China’s Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era,” *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3, August 2018, p. 138.

<sup>239</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 122.

<sup>240</sup> The quoted text is “技术的‘卡脖子’问题是国外关键核心技术断供造成的直接结果。” See Xing Dongmei (邢冬梅), “The Causes of the Problem of ‘Stranglehold’ Technologies and [How to] Avoid Them” (‘卡脖子’技术问题的成因与规避), *National Governance* (国家治理) reprinted on the *People’s Forum* (Online), 23 December 2020.

<sup>241</sup> The quote is taken from the introductory summary of an excellent translation of a PRC government text published in 2018 that outlines some of the specific technologies that PRC authorities categorize as “stranglehold technologies,” see “35 Key ‘Stranglehold’ Technologies,” from the PRC Ministry of Education as translated by the Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology (Online), 16 August 2021.

<sup>242</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “针对产业薄弱环节，实施好关键核心技术攻关工程，尽快解决一批“卡脖子”问题。” See “Xi Jinping Time: Enhance Innovative Capabilities to Solve the ‘Stranglehold’ Problem” (习近平时间|提高创新能力 解决“卡脖子”问题), *Xinhua News Agency*, 27 December 2020.

<sup>243</sup> Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, “Reform of China’s Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era,” *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3, August 2018, p. 123.

<sup>244</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 126.

<sup>245</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 139. For discussion of longstanding tensions between CAS and the Ministry of Science and Technology, see Richard P. Suttmeier, Cong Cao, and Denis Fred Simon, “China’s Innovation Challenge and the Remaking of the Chinese Academy of Sciences,” *Innovations Journal*, Summer 2006, MIT University Press: Cambridge, MA, p. 90-91.

<sup>246</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 81-82.

<sup>247</sup> Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, “Reform of China’s Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era,” *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3, August 2018, p. 125.

<sup>248</sup> *Ibid.* The operative phrase is “四个率先。”

<sup>249</sup> The quoted text is “四个率先”：率先实现科学技术跨越发展，率先建成国家创新人才高地，率先建成国家高水平科技智库，率先建设国际一流科研机构。” See Ding Jia (丁佳), “Chinese Academy of Sciences Issues New Guiding Principles for its Offices and the Academy: Three Orientations, Four Firsts” (中科院发布办院新方针：三个面向 四个率先), *Science Net.cn*, 13 February 2015.

<sup>250</sup> Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, “Reform of China’s Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era,” *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3, August 2018, p.129.

<sup>251</sup> The second was built at the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute, which opened in 2018. Ryan Clarke and Lam Peng Er, “Coronavirus Research in China: Origins, International Networks, and Consequences,” Non-Traditional Security (NTS)-Asia Consortium, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 20 May 2021, p. 12, 17-18.



- <sup>252</sup> Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, "Reform of China's Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era," *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3, August 2018, p. 133, 138.
- <sup>253</sup> Declan Butler, "Engineered Bat Virus Stirs Debate over Risky Research," *Nature* (2015), 12 November 2015.
- <sup>254</sup> David Cyranoski, "Inside the Chinese Lab Poised to Study the World's Most Dangerous Pathogens," *Nature* 542, pages 399–400 (2017), 23 February 2017.
- <sup>255</sup> Nicholas Wade, "The Origin of COVID: Did People or Nature Open Pandora's Box at Wuhan?," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 05 May 2021. Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 170-171.
- <sup>256</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 171.
- <sup>257</sup> Andrew Silver, "Taiwan's Science Academy Fined for Biosafety Lapses After Lab Worker Contracts COVID-19," *Science Magazine*, 24 January 2022.
- <sup>258</sup> This was because of its low virulence and because it largely infected young people, as older people had immunity from prior infections in 1949-1950. See, Martin Furmanski, "Laboratory Escapes and the 'Self-Fulfilling Prophecy' Epidemics," *Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation* (Online), 17 February 2014, p. 3.
- <sup>259</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>260</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- <sup>261</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>262</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>263</sup> For an overview of the debate about gain-of-function research, see Michael J. Imperiale and Arturo Casadevall, "A New Approach to Evaluating the Risk-Benefit Equation for Dual-Use and Gain-of-Function Research of Concern," *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*, Volume 6, Article 21, 08 March 2018.
- <sup>264</sup> See "Cambridge Working Group Consensus Statement on the Creation of Potential Pandemic Pathogens," *The Cambridge Working Group* (Online), 14 July 2014.
- <sup>265</sup> "Doing Diligence to Assess the Risks and Benefits of Life Sciences Gain-of-Function Research," *The White House* (Online), 17 October 2014.
- <sup>266</sup> Sara Reardon, "US Government Lifts Ban on Risky Pathogen Research," *Nature Magazine*, 19 December 2017.
- <sup>267</sup> Ralph S. Baric, et al., "A SARS-like Cluster of Circulating Bat Coronaviruses Shows Potential for Human Emergence," *Nature Medicine*, Volume 21, pages 1508–1513 (2015), published on 09 November 2015.
- <sup>268</sup> Declan Butler, "Engineered Bat Virus Stirs Debate over Risky Research," *Nature* (2015), 12 November 2015.
- <sup>269</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>270</sup> The quoted text is "发现部分课题组和支撑部门在菌毒种保藏和实验活动方面有不规范之处, 存在安全隐患." See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches Biosafety Inspection Work of Pathogen Microbiology Labs" (武汉病毒所开展病原微生物实验室生物安全检查工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 20 January 2011. In all fairness, the report referred to the lab having received good marks in some areas. The inspection team also put forward recommendations to improve biosafety conditions. One curious note: While this report was dated January 20, 2011, the webpage URL and the time stamp from Google search results indicate that the report was not posted on the WIV website until November 11, 2019, which is concurrent when the WIV appears to have been dealing with a major incident.
- <sup>271</sup> The quoted text is "综合安全检查中发现的问题提出有针对性的安全管理要求." See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes 2019 Safety and Security Work Conference" (武汉病毒所召开 2019 年度安全工作会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 08 April 2019.
- <sup>272</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "以近期全国各科研生产安全过程中的具体案例为警醒, 要求进一步筑牢安全思想防线."
- <sup>273</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 136-137.
- <sup>274</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 137. Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 172.
- <sup>275</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 172.
- <sup>276</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 174, 176.
- <sup>277</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 175.

<sup>278</sup> Ibid, p. 175-176. "Exchange and Discussion During the French Embassy in China and French Consulate General in Wuhan's Visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology" (法国驻华大使馆、法国驻武汉领事馆一行赴武汉病毒所交流座谈), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 January 2019.

<sup>279</sup> Quoted in Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 137-138.

<sup>280</sup> "Xi Jinping Gives Important Speech to Launch Study Session on Implementing the Spirit of the 18th Party Congress" (习近平在学习贯彻党的十九大精神研讨班开班式上发表重要讲话), *Xinhua* as reposted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 05 January 2018.

<sup>281</sup> The original quote was: "2018年1月5日, 习近平总书记在学习贯彻党的十八大精神研讨班开班式上列举了8个方面16个风险, 其中特别讲到'像非典那样的重大传染性疾病, 也要时刻保持警惕, 严密防范'." Zhu Xiaodong (注晓东) and Tong Siyu (童丝雨), "People's Daily Well-Known Article: Make an Offensive Move, Wage the Proactive War – Summaries of the Important Remarks of General Secretary Xi Jinping on Guarding Against and Neutralizing Major Risks" (人民日报著名文章: 下好先手棋, 打好主动仗 – 习近平总书记关于防范化解重大风险重要论述综述), *People's Daily* (15 April 2021) as reposted on the *PRC Ministry of Public Security* (Online), 23 April 2021.

<sup>282</sup> "Xi Jinping Gives Important Speech to Launch Study Session on Implementing the Spirit of the 18th Party Congress" (习近平在学习贯彻党的十九大精神研讨班开班式上发表重要讲话), *Xinhua* as reposted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 05 January 2018.

<sup>283</sup> The WIV has two campuses. Its original campus, which is co-located with the Wuhan Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, resides in the Xiao Hongshan Park in the central Wuhan district of Wuchang (武昌区). That facility contains BSL-2 and BSL-3 laboratories that have been in operation for many years. The WIV's second campus is located in an outlying district of Wuhan called Jiangxia (江夏) in the Zhengdian Research Industrial Park (郑店科研园区). This newer campus houses the BSL-4 laboratory, China's first facility built at the highest level of biocontainment. It was also officially designated a "National Biosecurity Laboratory." The Zhengdian Park campus has BSL-2 and BSL-3 laboratories, which are located adjacent to the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products.

<sup>284</sup> Josh Rogin, "State Department Cables Warned of Safety Issues at Wuhan Lab Studying Bat Coronaviruses," *Washington Post*, April 14, 2020.

<sup>285</sup> Ibid.

<sup>286</sup> "Ministry of Science and Technology Press Conference on 'Accelerating the Building of an Innovative Country': Transcript of Remarks" (科技部就"加快建设创新型国家"答记者问: 文字实录), the *PRC Ministry of Science and Technology* (Online), 10 March 2018.

<sup>287</sup> Chinese Academy of Sciences Bureau of Major R&D Programs and Science and Technology Strategy Consultation Research Institute, "Meeting Convened to Launch 'The Chinese Academy of Sciences Deepening the Advancement of Military-Civil Fusion Development Research' Program" ("中科院深入推进军民融合发展研究"项目启动会召开), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 19 March 2019.

<sup>288</sup> Ibid. Specifically, they were drawn from the Strategic Planning Bureau of the Military-Civil Fusion Office of the CCP Central Committee (中央军民融合办公室战略规划局), the Comprehensive Planning Bureau of the Equipment Development Department of the Central Military Commission (军委装备发展综合计划局), the CMC Science and Technology Committee's Science and Technology Strategy Bureau (军委科技委科技战略局), the Military-Civil Fusion Bureau of the Strategic Planning Office of the CMC (军委战略规划办军民融合局), the Research and Development Bureau of the PLA Academy of Military Science (军事科学院科研部), the Bureau of Major R&D Programs at CAS (中科院重大任务局), the Bureau of Development & Planning at CAS (中科院发展规划局), the Bureau of Facility Support and Budget at CAS (中科院条件保障与财政局), the CAS Center for Project Management (中科院项目管理中心), and various leaders, representatives and experts hailing from around 30 CAS research institutes (中科院近30个研究所和相关单位的负责人, 代表, 专家).

<sup>289</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "形成军民融合发展战略研究的长效机制."

<sup>290</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "相里斌在总结讲话强调, 启动'中科院深入推进军民融合发展研究'项目是中科院落实习近平总书记关于军民融合发展战略指示要求, 特别是贯彻落实今年3月2日习近平总书记在十九届中央军民融合发展委员会第一次全体会议上的重要讲话和3月12日习近平总书记在出席十三届全国人大一次会议解放军和武警部队代表团全体会议时的重要讲话的具体举措."

<sup>291</sup> See, “Xi Jinping Opens the 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress Central Committee’s First Plenary Meeting of the Military-Civil Fusion Strategy Commission” (习近平主持召开十九届中央军民融合发展委员会第一次全体会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 02 March 2018.

<sup>292</sup> See, “Xi Jinping Attends Plenary Meeting of the People’s Liberation Army Delegation” (习近平出席解放军代表团全体会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 12 March 2017.

<sup>293</sup> The quoted text is “也要发挥中科院, 高等院校, 民口和民营企业的潜力, 最大限度实现民为军用.” *Xinhua* did not include this line from Xi’s remarks in its news report of the meeting. Xi’s speeches generally appear in a redacted form in the summaries and transcripts issued by the PRC state media. Senator Rubio’s staff, however, obtained a report internal to the PLA that included the quoted text.

<sup>294</sup> The quoted text is “根据协议, 未来双方将重点围绕联合建设高端战略智库, 联合开展项目合作研究, 共同推动协同创新平台建设, 联合培养人才和促进人员交流等方面深化合作.” See, “The Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Military Sciences Sign Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement” (中科院与军事科学院签署战略合作框架协议), *Chinese Academy of Sciences*, 23 March 2018.

<sup>295</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>296</sup> “Biosafety Management Regulations for Laboratories that Study Pathogenic Microorganisms” (病原微生物实验室生物安全管理条例), *State Affairs Bulletin* (国务公报) posted on the *Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), First Supplementary Issue of 2019 (1 增刊), 2019.

<sup>297</sup> The quoted text is “第二十二条第一款中的‘取得从事高致病性病原微生物实验活动资格证书的实验室,’修改为‘三级、四级实验室.’” See, “2018 Revised Edition: Biosafety Management Regulations for Laboratories that Study Pathogenic Microorganisms,” (2018 修订版: 病原微生物实验室生物安全管理条例), the *China Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System* (全国细胞耐药监测网), 09 April 2018.

<sup>298</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “第二十六条修改为: ‘国务院卫生主管部门和兽医主管部门应当定期汇总并互相通报实验室数量和实验室设立, 分布情况, 以及三级、四级实验室从事高致病性病原微生物实验活动的情况.’”

<sup>299</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “第五十六条修改为: ‘三级、四级实验室未经批准从事某种高致病性病原微生物或者疑似高致病性病原微生物实验活动的, 由县级以上地方人民政府卫生主管部门, 兽医主管部门依照各自职责, 责令停止有关活动, 监督其将用于实验活动的病原微生物销毁或者送交保藏机构, 并给予警告; 造成传染病传播, 流行或者其他严重后果的, 由实验室的设立单位对主要负责人, 直接负责的主管人员和其他直接责任人员, 依法给予撤职, 开除的处分; 构成犯罪的, 依法追究刑事责任.’”

<sup>300</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “第六十一条中的‘由原发证部门吊销该实验室从事高致病性病原微生物相关实验活动的资格证书’修改为‘责令停止该项实验活动, 该实验室 2 年内不得申请从事高致病性病原微生物实验活动.’”

<sup>301</sup> The quoted text is “目的全面了解张家界市病原微生物实验室生物安全现状, 分析张家界市病原微生物实验室生物安全目前面临的突出问题, 提出对策, 消除实验室生物安全隐患.” See, Tian Xiaohui (田晓辉), Xiao Yongyue (肖永跃), Yang Yunhua (杨云华), and Tan Zhao (覃昭), “Analysis of Biosafety of Pathogenic Microorganism Laboratories in Zhangjiajie in 2018” (张家界 2018 年病原微生物实验室生物安全现状分析), *Chinese Journal of Public Health Management* (中国公共卫生管理), 2020 Vol. 1.

<sup>302</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “结果张家界市实验室生物安全状况不容乐观, 存在很多安全隐患, 包括职业暴露, 院内感染, 环境污染, 缺乏培训, 无证上岗, 管理体系不能有效运行, 单位领导不够重视和卫生主管部门监管缺失等.”

<sup>303</sup> Sharon Lerner and Maia Hibbett, “Leaked Grant Proposal Details High-Risk Coronavirus Research,” *The Intercept*, 23 September 2021.

<sup>304</sup> “Project DEFUSE: Defusing the Threat of Bat-Borne Coronaviruses,” EcoHealth Alliance Proposal Volume I, posted by *DRASTIC Research* (Online), proposal was submitted to DARPA on 27 March 2018, released online in September 2021, pg. 1, 11.

<sup>305</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 11.

<sup>306</sup> Gary R. Whittaker, “SARS-CoV-2 Spike and its Adaptable Furin Cleavage Site,” *The Lancet*, Volume 2, Issue 10, e488-e489, 01 October 2021, published online on 06 August 2021.

<sup>307</sup> Vineet D. Menachery, et. al., “Furin Cleavage Site Is Key to SARS-CoV-2 Pathogenesis,” Preprint, *BioRxiv*, 26 August 2020; Neil L. Harrison and Jeffrey D. Sachs, “A call for an independent inquiry into the origin of the SARS-CoV-



2 virus," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (PNAS), 2022, Vol. 119, No. 21, published 19 May 2022.

<sup>308</sup> Gary R. Whittaker, "SARS-CoV-2 Spike and its Adaptable Furin Cleavage Site," *The Lancet*, Volume 2, Issue 10, e488-e489, 01 October 2021, published online on 06 August 2021.

<sup>309</sup> Neil L. Harrison and Jeffrey D. Sachs, "A call for an independent inquiry into the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (PNAS), 2022, Vol. 119, No. 21, published 19 May 2022.

<sup>310</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>311</sup> "Project DEFUSE: Defusing the Threat of Bat-Borne Coronaviruses," EcoHealth Alliance Proposal Volume I, posted by *DRASTIC Research* (Online), proposal was submitted to DARPA on 27 March 2018, released online in September 2021, pg. 1.

<sup>312</sup> Sharon Lerner and Maia Hibbett, "Leaked Grant Proposal Details High-Risk Coronavirus Research," *The Intercept*, 23 September 2021. 23 September 2021.

<sup>313</sup> Wu Jia (吴佳), Yuan Zhiming (袁志明), Tang Hao (唐浩), Liu Jun (刘军), Qin Hao (秦颢), Liu Yi (刘毅), and Wang Lin (王林), "A Disinfectant Solution for Surfaces in High-Level Biosafety Laboratories and Related Preparation Methods," (一种用于高等级生物安全实验室的物表消毒液及其制备方法), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 13 November 2020, patent authorization date 09 November 2021, Patent Authorization Number: CN 112262846 B.

<sup>314</sup> For the work on golden Syrian hamsters, see Nisha K. Duggal, et. al., "Infectious SARS-CoV-2 Is Emitted in Aerosol Particles," *mBio* (American Society for Microbiology), Volume 12, No. 5, 19 October 2021.

<sup>315</sup> Emphasis added. Rowen Jacobsen, "'We Never Created a Supervirus.' Ralph Baric Explains Gain-of-Function Research," *MIT Technology Review*, 26 July 2021.

<sup>316</sup> Liu Yizhan (刘奕湛), "National Security, You and I Work Diligently Together! Summary of National Security Education Day Activities for all the People" (国家安全, 你我共同努力! 全民国家安全教育日活动综述), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted by *PLA Daily*, 16 April 2018.

<sup>317</sup> "The General Public Enters the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention to Push Aside the Mysterious Veil of 'Biosecurity'" (公众走进中国疾控中心拨开 '生物安全' 神秘面纱), *Xinhua News Agency*, 15 April 2017. Zhang Lei (张磊) and Li Yuanqiu (李媛秋), "The General Public Enters Biosafety Laboratories" (公众走进生物安全实验室), *Disease Surveillance* (疫病监测), 2017.

<sup>318</sup> Changchun municipality in Jilin province was the example cited. Liu Yizhan (刘奕湛), "National Security, You and I Work Diligently Together! Summary of National Security Education Day Activities for all the People" (国家安全, 你我共同努力! 全民国家安全教育日活动综述), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted by *PLA Daily*, 16 April 2018.

<sup>319</sup> *Ibid.* The subtle implication of the Chinese statement was the CCDPC would not ordinarily have access to PLA facilities, and in fact, the PLA generally operates with minimal coordination with PRC government ministries.

<sup>320</sup> The quoted text is "我们坚持党对科技事业的领导, 健全党对科技工作的领导体制, 发挥党的领导政治优势." See "Xi Jinping: Speech to the Chinese Academy of Sciences' 19th Plenary Meeting of Academicians and the Chinese Academy of Engineering's 14th Plenary Meeting of Academicians" (习近平: 在中国科学院第十九次院士大会、中国工程院第十四次院士大会上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 28 May 2018.

<sup>321</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "在关键领域, 卡脖子的地方下大功夫, 集合精锐力量, 作出战略性安排, 尽早取得突破, 力争实现我国整体科技水平从跟跑向并行, 领跑的战略性转变, 在重要科技领域成为领跑者, 在新兴前沿交叉领域成为开拓者, 创造更多竞争优势."

<sup>322</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "科学技术从来没有像今天这样深刻影响着国家前途命运."

<sup>323</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "有的历史性交汇期也可能擦肩而过."

<sup>324</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "要高标准建设国家实验室, 推动大科学计划, 大科学工程, 大科学中心, 国际科技创新基地的统筹布局和优化."

<sup>325</sup> Cao Cong, Li Ning, Li Xia, and Liu Li, "Reform of China's Science and Technology System in the Xi Jinping Era," *China: An International Journal*, Volume 16, Number 3, August 2018, p. 138.

<sup>326</sup> The quoted text is "广大工程科技工作者既要有工匠精神, 又要有团结精神, 围绕国家重大战略需求, 瞄准经济建设和事关国家安全的重大工程科技问题, 紧贴... 军民融合需求, 加快自主创新成果转化应用, 在前瞻性、战略性领域打好主动仗." "Xi Jinping: Speech to the Chinese Academy of Sciences' 19th Plenary Meeting of

Academicians and the Chinese Academy of Engineering's 14th Plenary Meeting of Academicians" (习近平：在中国科学院第十九次院士大会、中国工程院第十四次院士大会上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 28 May 2018.

<sup>327</sup> "Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Finance Several Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of State Key Laboratories" (科技部财政部关于加强国家重点实验室建设发展的若干意见), the *Ministry of the Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China* (Online), MOST 2018 Document No. 64, 22 June 2018.

<sup>328</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 168.

<sup>329</sup> The quoted text is "与全面加强基础科学研究建设世界科技强国的要求相比, 还存在重大原创性成果缺乏, 世界一流领军科学家不足, 管理体制机制亟待深化等问题." See, "Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Finance Several Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of State Key Laboratories" (科技部财政部关于加强国家重点实验室建设发展的若干意见), the *Ministry of the Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China* (Online), MOST 2018 Document No. 64, 22 June 2018.

<sup>330</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "加强协同创新, 推动军民融合."

<sup>331</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "军民共建" and "优化调整."

<sup>332</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 174, 176.

<sup>333</sup> "The Unfolding of China's Changsheng Vaccine Scandal," *Reuters*, 24 July 2018.

<sup>334</sup> Eli Meixler, "Outrage in China over Latest Vaccine Safety Scandal," *Time Magazine*, 23 July 2018.

<sup>335</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>336</sup> The quoted text is "强调确保药品安全是各级党委和政府义不容辞之责, 要始终把人民群众的身体健康放在首位... 完善我国疫苗管理体制, 坚决守住安全底线, 全力保障群众切身利益和社会安全稳定大局." See Li Xiaokang (李小康), "To Pass a Good Law for the Country and Increase the Well-Being of the People: Highlights of Chairman Li Zhanshu Leading the National People's Congress Investigation and Research Group to Hunan to Launch Legislative Research and Investigation" (为国家立良法为人民增福祉: 栗战书委员长率全国人大调研组到湖南开展立法调研侧记), *The People's Congress of China Magazine* (中国人大), No. 15, Vol. 483, 05 August 2019, pg.8.

<sup>337</sup> "Wuhan National Biosecurity Laboratory: A Treasure of the Nation, Mission of a Generation" (武汉国家生物安全实验室：国之重器，时代使命), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 18 November 2020.

<sup>338</sup> Yuan Zhiming, "Current Status and Future Challenges of High-Level Biosafety Laboratories in China," *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity*, Volume 1, Issue 2, September 2019, p. 124.

<sup>339</sup> "China's First Biosafety Level 4 Lab Put into Operation," *Xinhua* re-posted on the *State Council of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 04 January 2018.

<sup>340</sup> The quoted text is "于 2017 年正式投入使用." See, Yu Hao (于浩), "Put the Physical Health of the People in the Highest Place from the Beginning to the End: Highlights from the National People's Congress Standing Committee Launching of an Infectious Disease Prevention Law Enforcement Inspection" ("始终把人民群众的身体健康放在首位: 全国人大常委会开展传染病防治法执法检查侧记"), *The People's Congress of China Magazine* (中国人大), No. 16, Vol. 460, 20 August 2018, pg. 7.

<sup>341</sup> The quoted text is "传染病防治法执法检查组." See, Yu Hao (于浩), "Put the Physical Health of the People in the Highest Place from the Beginning to the End: Highlights from the National People's Congress Standing Committee Launching of an Infectious Disease Prevention Law Enforcement Inspection" ("始终把人民群众的身体健康放在首位: 全国人大常委会开展传染病防治法执法检查侧记"), *The People's Congress of China Magazine* (中国人大), No. 16, Vol. 460, 20 August 2018, pg. 4-7.

<sup>342</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>343</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 7.

<sup>344</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Party Committee Convenes Central Group Plenary Study Session" (武汉病毒所党委召开中心组（扩大）学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 September 2018; and "The Comprehensive Management General Party Branch of the Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Specialized Study Meeting on 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所综合管理党总支召开 "不忘初心，牢记使命" 专题学习会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 20 September 2018.

<sup>345</sup> The quoted text is “陈新文从中科院当前工作的短板和不足...” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Party Committee Convenes Central Group Plenary Study Session” (武汉病毒所党委召开中心组（扩大）学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 September 2018.

<sup>346</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “提出必须紧紧抓住事关国家全局和长远发展的关键领域和卡脖子问题。”

<sup>347</sup> The quoted text is “技术的‘卡脖子’问题是国外关键核心技术断供造成的直接结果。” See Xing Dongmei (邢冬梅), “The Causes of the Problem of ‘Stranglehold’ Technologies and [How to] Avoid Them” (‘卡脖子’技术问题的成因与规避), *National Governance* (国家治理) reprinted on the *People’s Forum* (Online), 23 December 2020.

<sup>348</sup> The quote is taken from the introductory summary of an excellent translation of a PRC government text published in 2018 that outlines some of the specific technologies that PRC authorities categorize as “stranglehold technologies,” see “35 Key ‘Stranglehold’ Technologies,” from the PRC Ministry of Education as translated by the *Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology* (Online), 16 August 2021.

<sup>349</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “我们科技总体上与发达国家比有差距, 要采取‘非对称’赶超战略, 发挥自己的优势, 特别是到二零五零年都不可能赶上的核心技术领域, 要研究‘非对称’性赶超措施, 在国际上, 没有核心技术的优势就没有政治上的强势. 在关键领域, 卡脖子的地方要下大功夫. 军事上也是如此.” See Xi’s speech after hearing the report from the Ministry of Technology on August 21, 2013, an excerpt from which can be found in *Selections from Xi Jinping’s Discourse on the Holistic View of National Security* (习近平关于总体国家安全观论述摘编), Central Party Literature Press, Beijing: 01 April 2018, p. 155.

<sup>350</sup> The quoted text is “他强调, 研究所要在院党组的领导下, 进一步明确未来一个时期发展思路何工作重点, 推进生物安全大科学中心建设... 完善研究所保密管理体系建设工作... 进一步加强党建工作, 认真抓好基层党组织建设, 为研究所科技创新提供坚强的政治和组织保证.” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Party Committee Convenes Central Group Plenary Study Session” (武汉病毒所党委召开中心组（扩大）学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 September 2018.

<sup>351</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “当前我国科技发展形势逼人, 挑战逼人, 使命逼人, 我们必须始终坚持需求导向, 问题导向, 目标导向的原则, 面向国家需求, 明确自己的科研定位, 着力为解决短板和卡脖子问题, 为实现中华民族伟大复兴, 为国家, 为人民做贡献.” Note that 中华民族的伟大复兴 is most often translated as the “great rejuvenation of the Chinese *nation*,” and elsewhere in this report where it is appropriate, we use that translation. But a word of warning is in order: 民族 is *not* synonymous with “country” in the way that nation is now frequently used in English. And in certain contexts, such as Xiao’s comment here, the word 民族 is closer to the meaning of “race” or “ethnic group” in English than to “nation,” at least in its contemporary usage. This point is illustrated by Xiao’s drawing of a distinction not only between the “nation/country” (国家) and the “people” (人民), but also the “race” (民族). Xiao is not being redundant. The three terms he uses are distinct in Chinese. Hence our use of “race” to translate 民族 in this instance. CCP leaders often speak of 民族 in terms that encompass ethnic Chinese people worldwide regardless of their citizenship or national identity, because in the minds of the CCP, biological lineage determines one’s 民族, not personal identity or where one calls home.

<sup>352</sup> The quoted text is “要深入学习习近平总书记关于科技创新重要讲话精神, 认真对标党中央, 国务院对科技创新工作的新要求新部署, 准确把握院党组的决策部署和工作要求, 进一步增强使命感紧迫感危机感...” See “The Comprehensive Management General Party Branch of the Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Specialized Study Meeting on ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所综合管理党总支召开“不忘初心, 牢记使命”专题学习会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 20 September 2018.

<sup>353</sup> The quoted text is “习近平强调, 强化责任担当, 狠抓贯彻落实... 推动科技协同创新, 加快推动军民融合深度发展.” See, “Xi Jinping Opens the Second Meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress Central Committee’s Commission on Military-Civil Fusion Development” (习近平主持召开十九届中央军民融合发展委员会第二次会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 15 October 2018.

<sup>354</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “要着力突破关键核心技术, 立足最复杂, 最困难的情况, 以工程建设为牵引, 集中优势力量协同攻关, 早日取得突破.”

<sup>355</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “要大幅度精简审批事项, 降低准入门槛, 降低制度性成本, 释放社会生产力.”



<sup>356</sup> Zhiming Yuan, et. al., "Studies on Developing a Safe-Management Standard System for Chinese Biosafety Laboratories," *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity*, Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2019, pg 39-45, first published online on 20 February 2019.

<sup>357</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added.

<sup>358</sup> Ibid.

<sup>359</sup> See Wang Xiaoli (王小姐) and Zhou Dongsheng (周冬生), "Looking toward International Biosecurity Situation in 2035," (面向 2035 年的国际生物安全形势), *The Study Times* (学习时报), 20 December 2019. Note that the *Study Times* is published by the Central Party School of the CCP Central Committee.

<sup>360</sup> From 2004 to 2013, Yuan was also the Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Committee at the WIV. See Yuan's bio on the WIV website. "Yuan Zhiming" (袁志明), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 18 November 2021. [http://www.whiov.cas.cn/yjsjy/zsxyjs/dsjs/bssds/202111/t20211118\\_6263778.html](http://www.whiov.cas.cn/yjsjy/zsxyjs/dsjs/bssds/202111/t20211118_6263778.html)

<sup>361</sup> "The Happiness and Glory to be Shared on the Historical Course to the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Race" (在实现中华民族伟大复兴的历史进程中共享幸福和荣光), *Xinhua News Agency* as reposted on the *PLA Daily*, 22 March 2018.

<sup>362</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is "在管理和支撑体系建设方面, 高等级生物安全实验室的法律法规和标准体系亟需进一步完善." Yuan Zhiming (袁志明), Et. al., "Considerations about Improving the Planning of High-Level Biosafety Laboratory System in China, (关于加强我国高等级生物安全实验室体系规划的思考), *Bulletin of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (中国科学院院刊), 2016, 31(10): 1248-1254.

<sup>363</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "我国在高等级生物安全实验室体系建设和管理方面存在一定问题. 目前全国仅建成 1 个四级实验室, 并且其关键设备的管理维护以及人员对四级实验室的标准化操作程序 (SOP) 的掌握还不够成熟."

<sup>364</sup> He Tieshan (何铁山), "The Basis of Biosafety Inspections of Laboratories Working with Pathogenic Microorganisms and Common Problems," (病原微生物实验室生物安全监督依据及常见问题), Doc88.com, posted on 20 June 2020.

<sup>365</sup> Maggie Huifu Wong, "Megacities and More: A Guide to China's Most Impressive Urban Centers," *CNN*, 05 March 2019; and Xinlu Liang, "Alibaba's Hometown Named China's City with Most Economic Potential, But Who Else Tops the List?," *South China Morning Post*, 08 September 2021.

<sup>366</sup> The quoted text is "一、二级实验室未按规定备案." He Tieshan (何铁山), "The Basis of Biosafety Inspections of Laboratories Working with Pathogenic Microorganisms and Common Problems," (病原微生物实验室生物安全监督依据及常见问题), Doc88.com, posted on 20 June 2020.

<sup>367</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实验室入口无生物危险警示标识或标识内容不全, 出口无紧急撤离发光标志."

<sup>368</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实验室突发事件时对应应急预案的启动和实施不熟练."

<sup>369</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "菌(毒)种样本来源, 保存, 实验项目等登记资料不全."

<sup>370</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "保存菌(毒)种及阳性标本冰箱未双人双锁, 放置区域不符合防盗要求."

<sup>371</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "生物安全柜, 高压灭菌器等设备未按规定检测."

<sup>372</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "违规使用消毒产品: 紫外线消毒灯, 消毒剂, 消毒剂浓度测试卡等."

<sup>373</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "废弃的培养基, 标本和菌种, 毒种保存液等高危险废物处置前未原地消毒."

<sup>374</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实验后标本去向管理不规范, 尤其是阳性标本."

<sup>375</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "高压灭菌人员无上岗前培训证明."

<sup>376</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "医疗废物交接不及时, 尤其是损伤性废物."

<sup>377</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实验室废水直接排放到医疗机构污水处理系统."

<sup>378</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实验室空气, 物本表面消毒监测不规范."

<sup>379</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实验室工作人员未按要求进行个人防护."

<sup>380</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实验室内存放与实验无关的物品, 过期试剂未及时清除."

<sup>381</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *Sinolinsider*, April 2020, pg. 26.

<sup>382</sup> John Markoff and David Barboza, "2 Chinese Schools Said to be Linked to Online Attacks," *The New York Times*, 18 February 2010; and Catalin Cimpanu, "Chinese Universities Connected to Known APTs are Conducting AI/ML Cybersecurity Research," *The Record*, 11 March 2021.

<sup>383</sup> Jing-Bao Nie, "He Jiankui's Genetic Misadventure: Why Him? Why China?," *The Hastings Center*, 05 December 2018.

<sup>384</sup> Ibid.

<sup>385</sup> The funding came from the PRC Ministry of Science and Technology, the Shenzhen Municipal Science and Technology Innovation Commission, and He's university, according to a slide presentation prepared by He's team, Chinese-language patient consent forms, and China's clinical trial registry. See, Jane Qiu, "Chinese Government Funding May Have Been Used for 'CRISPR Babies' Project, Documents Suggest," *STAT News*, 25 February 2019.

<sup>386</sup> The Chinese phrase is "建设项目通过验收." See, "Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory Construction Project Passes Final Inspection and Approval" (武汉国家生物安全实验室建设项目通过验收), *Sohu.com News*, 27 December 2018. "Wuhan National Biosafety Lab Easily Passes State Inspection" (武汉国家生物安全实验室项目顺利通过国家验收), the *Hubei Provincial People's Government Development and Reform Commission* (Online), 29 December 2018.

<sup>387</sup> Yuan Zhiming, et. Al, "Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory User Training Program, China," *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (Volume 25, Number 5), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Online), 26 March 2019.

<sup>388</sup> "China Opens First Bio Safety Level 4 Laboratory," U.S. State Department Cable from U.S. Embassy in Beijing, dated 19 January 2018, posted by the *Washington Post*, 14 April 2020.

<sup>389</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is "为进一步加强和规范实验室生物安全管理工作, 审核实验室管理体系文件和相关生物安全风险评估报告, 防范生物安全事故." See, "Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory Receives 2018 Annual Biosafety Inspection," (武汉国家生物安全实验室接受 2018 年度生物安全检查), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 06 December 2018.

<sup>390</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "各位委员根据核查表内容, 对实验室生物安全管理, 生物安保管理, 科研活动管理及设施设备运维管理等四个方面进行了现场考察和文件审查..."

<sup>391</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "各位委员专家积极发言, 共谋对策, 提出了意见及整改方案."

<sup>392</sup> Ibid.

<sup>393</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "石正丽总结指出, 生物安全无小事, 与实验室人员的安全息息相关. 她强调, 各部门和工作人员要将制度和计划落到实处, 一定要做好相关汇总和记录; 同时要加强安全监管, 积极组织培训学习, 强化生物安全意识, 进一步制定和完善实验室生物安全管理制度, 推动实验室安全保障体系再上一台阶."

<sup>394</sup> The quoted text is "聚焦国家当前紧迫需求和长远发展战略需求的重大科技任务, 聚焦 '卡脖子' 关键核心技术问题." See, "Wuhan Branch Opens Fourth Quarter Party Building Work Advancement Meeting" (武汉分院召开第四季度党建工作推进会), *Wuhan Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 26 December 2018.

<sup>395</sup> "Report of Investigation into Beijing Jiaotong University 'December 26' Accident is Released" (北京交通大学 "12.26" 事故调查报告公布), *Beijing Daily*, 13 February 2019.

<sup>396</sup> Ibid.

<sup>397</sup> See, "A Catalogue of and Brief Introductions for Projects Selected for 2018 National Natural Science Awards" (2018 年度国家自然科学奖获奖项目目录及简介), *PRC Ministry of Science and Technology* (Online), 08 January 2019.

<sup>398</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "中国蝙蝠携带重要病毒研究."

<sup>399</sup> The project number was Z-105-2-03.

<sup>400</sup> "Research Project on Important Viruses Carried by Chinese Bats Wins State Natural Science Award Second Class," ("中国蝙蝠携带重要病毒研究" 项目喜获国家自然科学二等奖), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 09 January 2019; "The CCP Central Committee and State Council Holds Grand Award Ceremony for State Science and Technology Awards, Xi Jinping Attends the Ceremony and Gives Out Prizes to Highest Recipients" (中共中央国务院隆重举行国家科学技术奖励大会, 习近平出席大会并为最高奖获得者等颁奖), *Xinhua News Agency*, 08 January 2019. Note that the Xinhua piece describes the ceremony, but only names the recipients of the highest honors (Shi Zhengli won a second-class award). The WIV article details Shi's prize.

<sup>401</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), pg. 206.

<sup>402</sup> Ibid.

<sup>403</sup> The project authorization number is 31770175. See “Study of the Evolutionary Mechanism of bat SARS-like Coronaviruses Adaptation to Host Receptor Molecules and the Risk of Cross-Species Infection” (蝙蝠 SARS 样冠状病毒适应宿主受体分子的进化机制及其跨种感染的风险的研究), *MedSci.cn*, last accessed 02 March 2022.

<sup>404</sup> The circular is labeled “Number 1” for 2019. It was issued on January 10 and released on the website on January 16. See, “Circular Regarding Going a Step Further to Strengthen Safety Inspection Work for Teaching Laboratories at Institutions of Higher Learning” (教育部办公厅关于进一步加强高校教学实验室安全检查工作的通知), *PRC Ministry of Education* (Online), 10 January 2019.

<sup>405</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>406</sup> The quoted text is “坚持党对政法工作的绝对领导.” See, “Xi Jinping Attends Central Political Legal Commission Work Conference and Delivers Important Speech,” (习近平出席中央政法工作会议并发表重要讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 16 January 2019.

<sup>407</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “履行好维护国家政治安全, 确保社会大局稳定.”

<sup>408</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “习近平指出, 要旗帜鲜明把政治建设放在首位, 努力打造一支党中央放心...的高素质政法队伍.”

<sup>409</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “...做到‘两个维护’矢志不渝做中国特色社会主义事业的建设者, 捍卫者. 政法机关要敢于刀刃向内, 刮骨疗毒, 坚决清除害群之马.”

<sup>410</sup> “Where the Significant Meaning of the ‘Two Upholds’ Comes From” (“两个维护”的重大意义从何而来) *Seeking Truth* (求是), 09 January 2021. “Full Text: Communiqué of 6th plenary session of 19th CPC Central Committee,” *Xinhua News Agency* posted on *PRC National People’s Congress* (Online), 11 November 2021. Xu Wei, “Upholding Core Position of Xi is Vital Requirement,” *China Daily*, 13 November 2021. “CPC Meeting Underlines Core Status of Xi,” *Xinhua News Agency*, 27 December 2018. James Palmer, “In Xi’s Little Red Article, the Monotony is the Point,” *Foreign Policy*, 17 July 2020.

<sup>411</sup> The quoted phrase was 坚持底线思维着力防范化解重大风险. “Xi Jinping: Be on Guard against ‘Black Swan’ Incidents, Prevent ‘Grey Rhinos,’” (习近平：警惕“黑天鹅”防范“灰犀牛”), *People’s Daily*, 22 January 2019.

<sup>412</sup> “Xi Jinping: Be on Guard against ‘Black Swan’ Incidents, Prevent ‘Grey Rhinos,’” (习近平：警惕“黑天鹅”防范“灰犀牛”), *People’s Daily*, 22 January 2019.

<sup>413</sup> Chris Buckley, “2019 is a Sensitive Year for China. Xi is Nervous,” *New York Times*, 25 February 2019.

<sup>414</sup> *Ibid.* Willy Wo-Lop Lam, “Xi Jinping Warns Against ‘Black Swans’ and ‘Grey Rhinos’ of a Possible Color Revolution,” *The Jamestown Foundation: China Brief* Volume 19, Issue 5, 05 March 2019, p. 6-9.

<sup>415</sup> The quoted text is “习近平在讲话中就防范化解政治, 意识形态, 经济, 科技, 社会, 外部环境, 党的建设等领域重大风险作出深刻分析, 提出明确要求. 他强调, 面对波谲云诡的国际形势, 复杂敏感的周边环境, 艰巨繁重的改革发展稳定任务, 我们必须始终保持高度警惕, 既要高度警惕“黑天鹅”事件, 也要防范“灰犀牛”事件; 既要有防范风险的先手, 也要有应对和化解风险挑战的高招; 既要打好防范和抵御风险的有准备之战, 也要打好化险为夷, 转危为机的战略主动战.” See, “Xi Jinping: Be on Guard against ‘Black Swan’ Incidents, Prevent ‘Grey Rhinos,’” (习近平：警惕“黑天鹅”防范“灰犀牛”), the *People’s Daily*, 22 January 2019.

<sup>416</sup> “Daily Study of Key Terms: Be on Guard against ‘Black Swan’ Incidents, Prevent ‘Grey Rhinos,’” Extracted from *2020 Edition of Key Terms for Party Members and Cadres in the New Era* (新时代党员干部学习关键词 2020 版), Party Building Reading Material Publishing House (党建读物出版社), February 2020, reprinted on the Finance Bureau of the *Guiyang Municipal People’s Government* (Online), 15 October 2020.

<sup>417</sup> On April 19, 2016, Xi Jinping gave a speech on controlling the Internet in which he spoke of the “frequent appearance of black swans” in the context of a changing era. See, Shi Anbin (史安斌), “Xi Jinping ‘4/19 Speech’ Presents the ‘Chinese Plan’ for Global Internet Governance,” (习近平“4-19 讲话”呈现互联网全球治理的“中国方案”), the *People’s Daily Chinese Communist Party News*, 18 April 2017. On April 26, 2018, Xi gave a speech on energy and economic development in Wuhan in which he noted that mishandling black swan incidents and grey rhino incidents could have deleterious effects on China’s economy. “Xi Jinping: Speech at the Forum on Deeply Promote Development of the Changjiang River Delta Economic Belt” (习近平：在深入推动长江经济带发展座谈会上的讲话), *Seeking Truth* (求是) reprinted in *Xinhua*, 31 August 2019.

<sup>418</sup> “Xi Jinping: Be on Guard against ‘Black Swan’ Incidents, Prevent ‘Grey Rhinos,’” (习近平：警惕“黑天鹅”防范“灰犀牛”), the *People’s Daily*, 22 January 2019.



<sup>419</sup> The Ministry of Science and Technology planned to establish around 700 state key laboratories nationwide by 2020. See, "By 2020 Our Country Will Have Established 700 State Key Laboratories," (2020 年我国将建成 700 个国家重点实验室) *Xinhua News Agency*, 26 June 2018.

<sup>420</sup> Profile of "Zhengli Shi," *World Society for Virology* (Online), accessed 08 December 2021. Profile of "Editor-in-Chief: Zhengli Shi," *Virologica Sinica* (Online), accessed 08 December 2021. Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 168.

<sup>421</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is "习近平强调, 科技领域安全是国家安全的重要组成部分。要加强体系建设和能力建设, 完善国家创新体系, 解决资源配置重复, 科研力量分散, 创新主体功能定位不清晰等突出问题, 提高创新体系整体效能。要加快补短板, 建立自主创新的制度机制优势。要加强重大创新领域战略研判和前瞻部署, 抓紧布局国家实验室, 重组国家重点实验室体系, 建设重大创新基地和创新平台, 完善产学研协同创新机制。要强化事关国家安全和经济社会发展全局的重大科技任务的统筹组织, 强化国家战略科技力量建设。要加快科技安全预警监测体系建设, 围绕人工智能, 基因编辑, 医疗诊断, 自动驾驶, 无人机, 服务机器人等领域, 加快推进相关立法工作。" See, "Xi Jinping: Be on Guard against 'Black Swan' Incidents, Prevent 'Grey Rhinos,'" (习近平: 警惕 "黑天鹅" 防范 "灰犀牛"), *People's Daily*, 22 January 2019.

<sup>422</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Study by the Party Committee's Plenary Central Group and Special Investigation and Study Meeting of the Educational Theme 'Never Forgetting our Original Aspiration and Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission' (武汉病毒所召开党委扩大中心组学习暨 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育专题调研会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 July 2019.

<sup>423</sup> "Exchange and Discussion During the French Embassy in China and French Consulate General in Wuhan's Visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology" (法国驻华大使馆、法国驻武汉领事馆一行赴武汉病毒所交流座谈), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 January 2019.

<sup>424</sup> *Ibid.* His title in Chinese was "实验室质量控制专员."

<sup>425</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 175.

<sup>426</sup> The quoted text is "双方就新一届指导委员会的组织, 中法双方病原资源共享以及 P4 实验室正压防护服出口等事项进行了深入交流与探讨。" See, "Exchange and Discussion During the French Embassy in China and French Consulate General in Wuhan's Visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology" (法国驻华大使馆、法国驻武汉领事馆一行赴武汉病毒所交流座谈), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 January 2019.

<sup>427</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "法方表示将积极促进双方的交流, 协助武汉 P4 实验室解决正压防护服短缺等问题。"

<sup>428</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 175.

<sup>429</sup> Fangzhong Wang and Weiwen Zhang, "Synthetic Biology: Recent Progress, Biosafety and Biosecurity Concerns, and Possible Solutions," *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity*, Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2019, p. 25. Note that this article was first published online on February 20 in advance of the March publication of the full journal.

<sup>430</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. Readers may recall that some virologists claimed in the early months of the pandemic that if SARS-CoV-2 was a chimera that had been engineered in a laboratory before escaping, such modifications to its genome would have been visible to virologists who examined its genomic structure. As illustrated by the Chinese experts quoted here, this claim was never true. There exists a "seamless" ligation method, that is a viral genome editing technique, which leaves no trace of artificial ligation, as the restriction sites do not remain in the final sequence after ligation. It was developed by Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. See R.S. Baric and A.C. Sims, "Development of Mouse Hepatitis Virus and SARS CoV Infectious cDNA Constructs," *Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology* (2005), 287: 229-252.

<sup>431</sup> Emphasis added. Jinsong Li, et al., "Biosafety Laboratory Risk Assessment," *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity* (Volume 1, Issue 2), September 2019, available online 20 February 2019, p. 91.

<sup>432</sup> UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, "New scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention : background information document : addendum / submitted by the Implementation Support Unit," Seventh Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, *United Nations Digital Library*, 23 November 2011, p. 3.

<sup>433</sup> “Wuhan National Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory Obtains CNAS Accreditation Certificate,” (武汉国家生物安全 (三级) 实验室获得 CNAS 认可证书), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 February 2019.

<sup>434</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “2018 年 9 月 25-28 日, CNAS 组织专家对 P3 实验室进行了实验室资质的初次评审。经过两天半的全面审查与测试, 通过文件审查, 现场考察, 人员考核等环节, 评审组一致认为该实验室硬件设施满足对三级病原的防护要求, 同时也对实验室在考察过程中发现的不符合项及观察项提出了具体整改要求。经实验室全体工作人员的努力, 于 11 月底完成全部整改工作, 并于 12 月 1 日通过现场复核, 最终获得 CNAS 认可证书。”

<sup>435</sup> The formal document number for the tender was ZB0109-201902-ZCFW0066. See, “Announcement of Call for Bids for Maintenance Project on the P3 Laboratory and Experimental Animal Center at the Zhengdian Campus of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所郑店园区 P3 实验室及实验动物中心维保项目竞争性磋商公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 01 March 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it. <https://archive.ph/7eCPU>

<sup>436</sup> The document number was ZB0109-1903-ZCHW0248. See, “Announcement of Sole Source Procurement Order for Positive Pressure Protective Suits for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所采购正压防护服项目单一来源公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 21 March 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating and archiving this document. [https://web.archive.org/web/20201112234607/http://www.ccgp.gov.cn/ccgg/dfgg/dylygg/201903/t20190321\\_11790067.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20201112234607/http://www.ccgp.gov.cn/ccgg/dfgg/dylygg/201903/t20190321_11790067.htm)

<sup>437</sup> “The Origins of Covid-19: An Investigation of the Wuhan Institute of Virology,” *House Foreign Affairs Committee Report Minority Staff*, August 2021, pg. 17; Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 172.

<sup>438</sup> “Premier Li Keqiang Signs State Council Order announcing ‘the People’s Republic of China Human Hereditary Resources Management Regulations’” (李克强签署国务院令公布《中华人民共和国人类遗传资源管理条例》), *Xinhua News Agency* reprinted in the *PLA Daily*, 10 June 2019.

<sup>439</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>440</sup> Tan Xueping (谭雪平) and Yang Yu (杨宇), “Genetic Warfare: the New Shadow Enveloping Humanity” (基因战争, 笼罩人类的新阴影), *PLA Daily*, 08 November 2018. Zhang Qiang (张强), “Genetic Weapons: a Pandora’s Box Worthy of Vigilance” (基因武器: 值得警惕的“潘多拉”魔盒), *Science and Technology Daily* reprinted in the *PLA Daily*, 06 November 2017.

<sup>441</sup> “Premier Li Keqiang Signs State Council Order announcing ‘the People’s Republic of China Human Hereditary Resources Management Regulations’” (李克强签署国务院令公布《中华人民共和国人类遗传资源管理条例》), *Xinhua News Agency* reprinted in the *PLA Daily*, 10 June 2019.

<sup>442</sup> Li Li (李莉), “Zhang Jiwen: Firmly Construct an Epidemic Inspection Line of Defense at Ports of Entry and Strictly Maintain Biosecurity at the Nation’s Gates” (张际文: 筑牢口岸检疫防线 严守国门生物安全), *Sohu.com*, 28 March 2019.

<sup>443</sup> George Fu Gao, “For a Better World: Biosafety Strategies to Protect Global Health,” *Biosafety and Health* 1 (1) (2019), p. 1. Note that this article was first submitted on February 25, accepted on March 17, and first appeared online on March 25. The hard copy version of the journal was not published until June 2019.

<sup>444</sup> “Event 201 Players: George Fu Gao,” *Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security* (Online), accessed on 15 December 2021.

<sup>445</sup> Emphasis added. George Fu Gao, “For a Better World: Biosafety Strategies to Protect Global Health,” *Biosafety and Health* 1 (1) (2019), p. 2.

<sup>446</sup> UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, “New scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention : background information document : addendum / submitted by the Implementation Support Unit,” Seventh Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, *United Nations Digital Library*, 23 November 2011, p. 2.

<sup>447</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>448</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>449</sup> Zhu Ningning (朱宁宁), "Six Legislative Items will Complete Interim Goals This Year" (6个立法项目将于今年完成阶段性目标), *The Legal Daily* reprinted on the *National People's Congress* (Online), 02 April 2019.

<sup>450</sup> Changhao Wei, "NPCSC Session Watch: Encryption, Civil Code, Biosecurity, Child Protection & State Supervision Commission Rulemaking," *NPC Observer* (Online), 15 October 2019.

<sup>451</sup> The quoted text is "近年来,媒体报道了我国在生物安全问题上的一些事件,引起国际、国内高度关注." Zhu Ningning (朱宁宁), "Six Legislative Items will Complete Interim Goals This Year" (6个立法项目将于今年完成阶段性目标), *The Legal Daily* reprinted on the *National People's Congress* (Online), 02 April 2019.

<sup>452</sup> The quoted text is "要以立法高质量发展保障和促进经济持续健康发展." See, "Xi Jinping Chairs the Opening of the Second Meeting of the Central Committee's Commission on the Comprehensive Use of the Law to Rule the Country" (习近平主持召开中央全面依法治国委员会第二次会议), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *PLA Daily*, 25 February 2019.

<sup>453</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes 2019 Security Work Conference" (武汉病毒所召开 2019 年度安全工作会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 08 April 2019.

<sup>454</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "何长才指出, 今年是新中国成立 70 周年和中科院建院 70 周年... 做好安全生产工作至关重要. 要从讲政治的高度把握安全生产, 要牢固树立安全发展观念, 着眼践行 '两个维护' 来看待安全生产... 时刻绷紧安全生产这根弦, 警钟长鸣, 常抓不懈, 努力为科技创新与发展营造良好环境."

<sup>455</sup> "Extremely accurate and detailed report" is "非常详实的报告," while "political inspection tour" is "政治巡视." See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Work Meeting for Political Inspection Tour," (武汉病毒所召开政治巡视工作宣讲会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 04 April 2019.

<sup>456</sup> The quoted text is "他强调, 要严格落实 '党政同责, 一岗双责, 齐抓共管, 失职追责' 的安全管理责任制要求, 坚持 '管业务必须管安全, 管生产必须管安全', 必须使两方面工作齐头并进." See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes 2019 Security Work Conference" (武汉病毒所召开 2019 年度安全工作会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 08 April 2019.

<sup>457</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "要严格遵守国家、中科院和研究所各项安全管理法律, 法规及法章制度, 加强日常安全管理, 不定期开展安全自查与隐患整改..."

<sup>458</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "研究所安全工作是研究所做好所有工作的前提和保障."

<sup>459</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "她要求: 一是要严格落实安全工作责任制, 将安全管理工作与科研业务工作紧密结合, 做到两者 '同计划, 同部署, 同检查, 同总结, 同评比'; 二是实验室的各项操作必须严格遵照标准作业程序执行, 不可存在任何侥幸心理; 三是进一步加强学生安全管理."

<sup>460</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "安全工作无小事, 要时刻绷紧安全生产这根弦, 做到规定动作不遗漏, 发现问题及时整改到位."

<sup>461</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology and Wuhan Municipal Jinyintan Hospital Sign Research Cooperation Agreement," (武汉病毒所与武汉市金银潭医院签署合作研究协议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 25 April 2019.

<sup>462</sup> Ibid.

<sup>463</sup> Patrick Fok, "A Year After Virus Appeared, Wuhan Tells China's Pandemic Story," *PBS Newshour*, 17 November 2020; "WHO Team Visits Wuhan Hospital that Took in First COVID-19 Patients," *Agence France-Presse*, 30 January 2021.

<sup>464</sup> The term "investigate and study" is "调研," and "on-the-spot inspections" is "实地检查." See, "Wang Shuzhi Investigates and Studies the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Security Work," (王树志调研武汉病毒所安全保卫工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 07 May 2019.

<sup>465</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "重点讨论了郑店科研园区安防设施升级方案."

<sup>466</sup> Ibid. The first quote is "王树志肯定了武汉病毒所安保工作成效, 并对升级方案提出了改进意见," and the second quote is "他要求武汉病毒所要建立健全安防管理体系, 完善安保工作机制..."

<sup>467</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes 'May 4' Youth Conference and Young Cadres Special Training," (武汉病毒所召开 "五四" 青年大会暨年轻干部专题培训会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 April 2019.

<sup>468</sup> Ibid. The first quote is "锐利思想武器," and the second quote is "要在党的领导下, 立足国家需求, 开展科研工作, 做时代的奋进者和搏击者."



<sup>469</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “中科院作为党、国家、人民可以依靠、可以信赖的国家战略科技力量,承载了将我国建设成为世界科技强国的使命,对于科学院青年来说,既生逢其时,也重任在肩。”

<sup>470</sup> “Nationwide Sanitation and Health System’s Safe Production Work Video Conference Convened” (全国卫生健康系统安全生产工作视频会议召开), *National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 15 May 2019.

<sup>471</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “确保不发生重特大安全事故。”

<sup>472</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “做好高等级生物安全实验活动监管和高级别病原微生物菌种管理。”

<sup>473</sup> Eva Dou, “Wuhan Lab’s Classified Work Complicates Search for Pandemic’s Origins,” *Washington Post*, 22 June 2021. Ryan Clarke and Lam Peng Er, “Coronavirus Research in China: Origins, International Networks, and Consequences,” Non-Traditional Security (NTS)-Asia Consortium, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 20 May 2021, p. 14.

<sup>474</sup> Eva Dou, “Wuhan Lab’s Classified Work Complicates Search for Pandemic’s Origins,” *Washington Post*, 22 June 2021. Note that Senator Rubio’s staff independently examined the original CAS report upon which the Washington Post’s reporting was based.

<sup>475</sup> See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2019 Specialized Training on National Security” (武汉病毒所举办 2019 年国家安全教育专题培训), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 13 May 2019.

<sup>476</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “针对手机使用存在的安全隐患, 提出详细的防范措施。”

<sup>477</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “他指出, 随着我国综合国力的不断提升, 信息化的高速发展, 大数据, 云计算, 人工智能等技术的持续推进, 境外间谍情报机关对我国情报渗透活动愈发活跃, 安全保密形式更加复杂和严峻, 因此, 我们要牢固树立 ‘总体国家安全观’ 进一步加强对网路、手机等新兴领域的安全保密防范意识, 掌握基本知识和技能, 从而提高反奸防谍和安全保密防护能力。”

<sup>478</sup> See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Party Branch Launches Party Day Activity on the Theme of ‘National Security Education’,” (武汉病毒所机关党支部开展 “国家安全教育” 主题党日活动), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 29 April 2019; “Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches Educational Activities for 2019 New Students Matriculating to the Institute” (武汉病毒所开展 2019 级新生入所教育活动), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 05 September 2019.

<sup>479</sup> Yuan Zhiming, “Current Status and Future Challenges of High-Level Biosafety Laboratories in China,” *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity*, Volume 1, Issue 2, September 2019, p. 125.

<sup>480</sup> Ibid, p. 125-126.

<sup>481</sup> Ibid, p. 125.

<sup>482</sup> Ibid, p. 123.

<sup>483</sup> “Hou Jianguo Visits Wuhan Branch [of CAS] to Investigate and Study Their Work on Party Building and Cadre Talent,” (侯建国赴武汉分院调研党建和干部人才工作), the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* reposted on the *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 31 May 2019.

<sup>484</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “侯建国强调, 要以习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想为指导, 增强 “四个意识,” 坚定 “四个自信,” 坚决做到 “两个维护,” 始终在政治立场, 政治方向, 政治原则, 政治道路上与以习近平同志为核心的党中央保持高度一致。”

<sup>485</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “力戒形式主义, 官僚主义。”

<sup>486</sup> “PCR Purchasing Report Wuhan China,” Internet 2.0 Relentless Security, October 2021, p. 10.

<sup>487</sup> Minnie Chan, “Coronavirus: Chinese Military Takes Control of Medical Supplies in Wuhan,” *South China Morning Post*, 03 February 2020.

<sup>488</sup> Jamie Tarabay, “Bloomberg Government: China PCR Purchases Increased Before First Known Covid Cases,” *Bloomberg Government*, 04 October 2021. Masaya Kato, “China PCR test orders soared before first confirmed COVID case,” *Nikkei Asia*, 05 October 2021.

<sup>489</sup> The quoted text is “实现了党建与业务工作的有机融合, 做到了党建工作全覆盖, 无死角。” See “Xiang Shuilun Examines the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Work of Establishing a ‘Red Flag Party Branch’” (项水伦考核武汉病毒所 “红旗党支部” 创建工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 11 June 2019.

<sup>490</sup> The quoted text is “武汉病毒所作为国家科研院所, 其初心和使命就是 ‘创新科技, 服务国家, 福祉人民’, 要通过这次主题教育自觉对标国家对科技创新工作提出的要求...” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convened Promotion Meeting for Work on the Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in

Mind our Mission' and a Study Session of the Expanded Party Committee Central Group" (武汉病毒所召开 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育工作推进会暨党委中心组 (扩大) 学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 June 2019.

<sup>491</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Special Investigation and Study Meeting on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所召开 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 11 July 2019. The quoted text is "肖庚富强调, 研究中心负责人要在工作中发挥带头表率作用, 提高政治站位, 牢记 '创新科技. 服务国家, 造福人民' 的初心和 '建设世界科技强国' 的使命."

<sup>492</sup> The key phrase is "不忘初心, 牢记使命." See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Centralized Study Session on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所召开 '不忘初心, 牢记使命' 主题教育集中学习班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 25 June 2019.

<sup>493</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "形式主义, 官僚主义是目前党内存在的突出矛盾和问题."

<sup>494</sup> For an authoritative discussion of the two terms in question (形式主义 and 官僚主义), including explanatory comments from Xi Jinping, see "What is Formalism? Bureaucratism? Do you Really Understand?" (什么是形式主义? 官僚主义? 你真的了解吗?), *The People's Daily*, 07 May 2020. For an academic analysis of "formalism," see Roy Chan, "Formalism," in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, Christian Sorace, et. al., eds., Australian National University Press: Canberra, 2019, pg. 77-80.

<sup>495</sup> The quoted text is "目前, 生物安全大科学中心的筹建工作处于关键时期, 这不仅需要广大管理人员不断提升眼界, 素养和能力, 做到担起责任, 带好队伍, 落实工作, 还需要各部门之间的充分协调, 从而更好地为科技创新工作保驾护航." "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Centralized Study Session on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所召开 '不忘初心, 牢记使命' 主题教育集中学习班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 25 June 2019.

<sup>496</sup> The quoted text is "坚持强脑铸魂, 着力提升党员干部思想政治素质...始终坚持建强战斗堡垒." See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology's Zhengdian Laboratory Party Branch is Awarded with Honorary Title of 'Red Flag Party Branch' from Hubei Provincial Work Committee for Directly Subordinate Organizations" (武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部荣获湖北省直机关工委 "红旗党支部" 荣誉称号), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>497</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes General Assembly to Honor and Celebrate 98th Anniversary of the Founding of the Party and Party Lecture Report on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'," (武汉病毒所召开庆祝建党 98 周年表彰大会暨 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育党课报告会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>498</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "重温入党誓词" and "20 位同志荣获武汉病毒所 '2019 年度优秀共产党员' 称号."

<sup>499</sup> See "Wuhan Institute of Virology Organizes Centralized Study on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'," (武汉病毒所组织 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育集中学习), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 09 July 2019; and "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Meeting to Promote [Political] Theory Study Work Among Young Cadres and Specialized Investigation and Study of the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒研究所召开年轻干部理论学习工作推进会暨 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 16 July 2019; and "The Party Branch of the Wuhan Institute of Virology Molecular Virus and Pathogen Research Center Organizes Monthly Party Day Activities and Specialized Investigation and Study of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所分子病毒与病理研究中心党支部组织 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题党日活动暨专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 19 July 2019; and "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Specialized Investigation and Study Meeting for Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所召开 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 19 July 2019; and "Wuhan Institute of Virology Organizes Centralized Study on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所组织 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育集中学习), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 19 July 2019; and "Party Branch of the Wuhan Institute of Virology Organizes Monthly Party Day Activities and Specialized Investigation and Study of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping

Firmly in Mind our Mission” (武汉病毒所微生物资源与生物信息研究中心党支部组织 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题党日活动暨主题教育专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 22 July 2019; and “Wuhan Institute of Virology Supporting Party Branch Organizes Monthly Party Day Activities and Specialized Investigation and Study of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所支撑党支部组织 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题党日活动暨专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 22 July 2019; and “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Study by the Party Committee’s Plenary Central Group and Special Investigation and Study Meeting of the Educational Theme ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration and Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所召开党委扩大中心组学习暨 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题教育专题调研会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 July 2019; and “Wuhan Institute of Virology Organizes Training Session for the Work of Party Branches” (武汉病毒所组织党支部工作培训会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 July 2019.

<sup>500</sup> See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Discussion Session for Results of Investigation and Study of the Educational Theme ‘Staying True to our Original Mission, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所召开 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题教育调研成果座谈会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 05 August 2019.

<sup>501</sup> The quoted text is “积极地投身到中科院的 ‘三个面向’，‘四个率先’ 工作中。” “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes General Assembly to Honor and Celebrate 98th Anniversary of the Founding of the Party and Party Lecture Report on the Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’,” (武汉病毒所召开庆祝建党 98 周年表彰大会暨 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题教育党课报告会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>502</sup> The quoted text is “ “三个面向”：面向世界科技前沿，面向国家重大需求，面向国民经济主战场。” Ding Jia (丁佳), “Chinese Academy of Sciences Issues New Guiding Principles for its Offices and the Academy: Three Orientations, Four Firsts” (中科院发布办院新方针：三个面向 四个率先), *Science Net.cn*, 13 February 2015.

<sup>503</sup> The quoted text is “贯彻习近平总书记 “三个面向” “四个率先” 重要指示批示精神尚有差距。” “Central Committee No. 15 Patrol Inspection Group Gives Feedback on Inspection Situation to Chinese Academy of Sciences Party Organization” (中央第十五巡视组向中国科学院党组反馈巡视情况), *CCP Central Commission on Discipline Inspection* (Online), 10 January 2020.

<sup>504</sup> The goal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is to build global infrastructure and capacity, which includes technical exchanges led by institutions like the WIV, with the ultimate goal of creating interconnectivity and international dependency on China for investment, commerce, trade, and science and technology. For more on BRI, see Andrew Chatzky and James McBride, “China’s Massive Belt and Road Initiative,” *Council on Foreign Relations*, 28 January 2020. For examples of the WIV’s involvement, see “Researcher Yang Rongge Leads a Visiting Exchange Delegation to the Philippines” (杨荣阁研究员率团赴菲律宾交流访问), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 10 June 2019; and “Wuhan Institute of Virology Organizes Centralized Study of Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所组织 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题教育集中学习), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 11 July 2019; and “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Discussion Session for Results of Investigation and Study of the Educational Theme ‘Staying True to our Original Mission, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所召开 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题教育调研成果座谈会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 05 August 2019.

<sup>505</sup> The quoted text is “针对进口关键核心设备可能出现的 “卡脖子” 问题，组织专业小组进行技术攻关及国产化替代产品的采购和研发...” See “Xiang Shuilun Examines the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Work of Establishing a ‘Red Flag Party Branch’” (项水伦考核武汉病毒所“红旗党支部”创建工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 11 June 2019.

<sup>506</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “聚焦生物安全领域 ‘卡脖子’ 问题，提出解决方案，通过攻坚克难，切实推进生物安全大科学中心的建设与发展，助力国家科技发展。” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Promotion Meeting for Work on the Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’ and a Study Session of the Expanded Party Committee Central Group” (武汉病毒所召开 “不忘初心，牢记使命” 主题教育工作推进会暨党委中心组 (扩大) 学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 June 2019.



<sup>507</sup> The quoted text is “围绕‘卡脖子’的技术问题,开展关键核心设备的管理交流与自主研发。” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Zhengdian Laboratory Party Branch is Awarded with Honorary Title of ‘Red Flag Party Branch’ from Hubei Provincial Work Committee for Directly Subordinate Organizations” (武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部荣获湖北省直机关工委“红旗党支部”荣誉称号), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>508</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Guangzhou Municipal No. 8 People’s Hospital Sign Strategic Cooperation Agreement,” (武汉病毒所与广州市第八人民医院签署战略合作协议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>509</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “新发、突发传染病和重大传染病关系到人民健康,社会稳定和国家安全,武汉病毒所与广州市第八人民医院各自在传染病的基础研究和临床治疗方面具有优势和特色,双方未来将以战略合作协议的签署为新起点开展全面合作,共同为我国新发突发和重大传染病的防控事业做出重要贡献。”

<sup>510</sup> See “Vaccine Administration Law of the People’s Republic of China,” *The National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 29 June 2019.

<sup>511</sup> Jiao Feng and Qin Li, “How to Ensure Vaccine Safety: An Evaluation of China’s Vaccine Regulation System,” *Vaccine Journal*, 39(37):5285-5294, 31 August 2021.

<sup>512</sup> Ibid. See also Wang Chen (王晨), “To Provide a Legal Protection for the People’s Physical Health: Writing at the Time of the Passage of the People’s Republic of China Vaccine Administration Law” (为人民群众身体健康提供有力法制保障:写在中华人民共和国疫苗管理法通过之际), *The People’s Congress of China Magazine* (中国人大), No. 15, Vol. 483, 05 August 2019, pg.11.

<sup>513</sup> “The Unfolding of China’s Changsheng Vaccine Scandal,” *Reuters*, 24 July 2018.

<sup>514</sup> Karen Pauls, “Chinese Researcher Escorted from Infectious Disease Lab amid RCMP Investigation,” *CBC News*, 14 July 2019.

<sup>515</sup> Karen Pauls, “Scientists Let Go From National Microbiology Laboratory amid RCMP Investigation,” *CBC News*, 06 February 2021.

<sup>516</sup> Karen Pauls, “‘Wake-up Call for Canada’: Security Analysts say Case of 2 Fired Scientists Could Point to Espionage,” *CBC News*, 10 June 2021.

<sup>517</sup> Ibid.

<sup>518</sup> Karen Pauls, “Canadian Scientist Sent Deadly Viruses to Wuhan Lab Months before RCMP Asked to Investigate,” *CBC News*, 14 June 2020.

<sup>519</sup> Karen Pauls, “Canadian Government Scientist under Investigation Trained Staff at Level 4 lab in China,” *CBC News*, 03 October 2019.

<sup>520</sup> For example, Qiu and her husband Cheng participated in a 2018 study in which 14 of their 20 coauthors worked for the PLA, mostly at the AMMS. See, Wang H, Wong G, Zhu W, He S, Zhao Y, Yan F, Rahim MN, Bi Y, Zhang Z, Cheng K, Jin H, Cao Z, Zheng X, Gai W, Bai J, Chen W, Zou Y, Gao Y, Gao GF, Yang S, Xia X, Qiu X, “Equine-origin immunoglobulin fragments protect nonhuman primates from Ebola virus disease,” *Journal of Virology*, 93: e01548-18, submitted 05 September 2018, published 19 February 2019.

<sup>521</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Organizes Centralized Study on the Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’,” (武汉病毒所组织“不忘初心,牢记使命”主题教育集中学习), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 09 July 2019. The quoted text from Xi is “习近平总书记强调我们既要善于补齐短板,更要注重加固底板。” The second quote is “重点针对目前 P4 实验室在建设和运维过程中存在的短板和底板问题展开热烈讨论。”

<sup>522</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “党员领导干部成员通过深入调研和广泛征求意见,充分了解和认识到限制研究所发展的短板和底板,并提出针对性和可操作性的解决措施。”

<sup>523</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “研究所生物安全大科学研究中心的建设,不仅需要科研人员自身增强忧患意识,时刻防控风险,也需要科研支撑部门的管理人员在工作上进一步提质增效,切实服务研究所的科技创新发展。”

<sup>524</sup> “Li Zhanshu: Use the Law to Delimit the Boundaries of the Development of Biotechnology, Ensure and Accelerate the Healthy Development of Biotechnology” (栗战书:用法律划定生物技术发展边界 保障和促进生物技术健康发展), *Xinhua reprinted on the PRC National People’s Congress* (Online), 11 July 2019.

<sup>525</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “增强忧患意识,做到居安思危。”

<sup>526</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “以习近平同志为核心的党中央高度重视生物安全问题, 习近平总书记多次作出重要指示, 为生物安全立法工作指明了方向, 提供了遵循。要深入贯彻习近平总书记重要指示要求, 坚持从总体国家安全观的高度充分认识生物安全立法的必要性和紧迫性, 通过立法确立生物安全领域的基础性制度原则, 突出风险防范, 用法律武器保卫国家生物安全, 保障人民生命健康。”

<sup>527</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “要通过立法, 引导和规范人类生物技术的研究应用走正确之路, 促进生物技术快速健康发展, 防止和减少可能出现的危害和损失。”

<sup>528</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes a Promotion Meeting for Young Cadres’ Theoretical Studies and a Special Study Meeting on the Theme of ‘Staying True to Our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind Our Mission’,” (武汉病毒所召开年轻干部理论学习工作推进会暨 “不忘初心、牢记使命” 主题教育专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 16 July 2019.

<sup>529</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “青年管理人员要在工作中坚持问题导向, 围绕研究所中心工作, 为科研服务解难题, 找到影响研究所管理中存在的突出问题, 并正视问题, 解决问题。”

<sup>530</sup> See, “Announcement of Deal Reached for Project to Renovate the Hazardous Waste Management System at the Zhengdian Campus of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所郑店园区危废处理系统改造工程成交公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 31 July 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it.

<https://archive.ph/3CW03#selection-149.0-152.0>

<sup>531</sup> Ibid.

<sup>532</sup> See, “Wang Shuzhi Investigates and Studies the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Security Work,” (王树志调研武汉病毒所安全保卫工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 07 May 2019.

<sup>533</sup> The quoted text is “参会党员针对生物安全理论和技术培训, 安全隐患的筛查和管理制度的完善, 高精端仪器的共享及郑店实验室整体搬迁等方面提出了意见和建议。” “Party Branch of the Wuhan Institute of Virology Microbiological Resources and Bioinformatics Research Center Organizes Monthly Party Day Activities and Specialized Investigation and Study of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所微生物资源与生物信息研究中心党支部组织 “不忘初心、牢记使命” 主题党日活动暨主题教育专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 22 July 2019.

<sup>534</sup> The quoted text is “强化责任担当意识, 敢于承担责任, 敢于向困难挑战, 善于在工作中磨练自己, 积累经验, 提升自己, 收获成长。” “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Specialized Investigation and Study Meeting for Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所召开 “不忘初心、牢记使命” 主题教育专题调研会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 19 July 2019.

<sup>535</sup> The quoted text is “中层管理干部要注重个人能力的提升, 尤其要重视学习, 学有所悟, 学有所得, 用学习指导工作, 用学习推动工作。在工作中, 要有 “咬定青山不放松” 的干事毅力, 要善于科学思维, 以问题为导向, 抓住关键问题, 充分发扬钉钉子精神, 做到有始有终, 把问题抓实, 再抓实, 不留下遗留问题, 真正让工作有成效。” See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Organizes Centralized Study on the Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所组织 “不忘初心、牢记使命” 主题教育集中学习), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 19 July 2019.

<sup>536</sup> The official project tender number was OITC-G190330973. See, “Procurement Project Open Announcement for Bids on Ambient Air Disinfection Treatment System and Scalable Automated Sample Storage Management System for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所环境空气消毒处理系统、可拓展型自动化样品存储管理系统采购项目公开招标公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 18 July 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it. <https://archive.ph/1qeVp#selection-149.0-149.48>

<sup>537</sup> See, “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任, 坚守使命 做我国高等级生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019; and “Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2019 Training Class on Biosafety Laboratory Management and Techniques for Conducting Experiments” (武汉病毒所举办 2019 年生物安全实验室管理与实验技术培训班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 November 2019.



<sup>538</sup> "Announcement of the Winning Bid for the Procurement Project for an Ambient Air Disinfection Treatment System and Scalable Automated Sample Storage Management System for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology" (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所环境空气消毒处理系统、可拓展型自动化样品存储管理系统采购项目中标公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 14 August 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it. <https://archive.ph/1nXLD#selection-149.0-152.0>

<sup>539</sup> See, "Wang Shuzhi Investigates and Studies the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Security Work," (王树志调研武汉病毒所安全保卫工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 07 May 2019.

<sup>540</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Hubei International Travel Healthcare Center Sign Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement" (武汉病毒所与湖北国旅保健中心签署全面合作协议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 July 2019.

<sup>541</sup> For information on the relationship between the International Travel Healthcare Center and the General Administration of Customs, see the official website of the General Administration for Customs (Beijing) International Travel Healthcare Center at <https://www.beijingithc.org.cn/>

<sup>542</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Hubei International Travel Healthcare Center Sign Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement" (武汉病毒所与湖北国旅保健中心签署全面合作协议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 July 2019.

<sup>543</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Signs Strategic Cooperation Agreement with the Wuhan Customs Administration" (武汉病毒所与武汉海关签署战略合作协议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>544</sup> The quoted text is "2019 年武汉军运会期间生物安全检测保障." "Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Hubei International Travel Healthcare Center Sign Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement" (武汉病毒所与湖北国旅保健中心签署全面合作协议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 July 2019.

<sup>545</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "根据全面合作协议, 武汉病毒所与湖北国旅保健中心将重点围绕口岸新发烈性传染病检测, 口岸生物样本库建设, 病原研究及检测新技术研发等领域开展合作, 共同为我国的新发烈性传染病防控做出贡献."

<sup>546</sup> "National Health Commission Holds 2019 National Sudden Public Health Incident Emergency Drill" (国家卫健委举办 2019 年国家突发公共卫生事件应急演练), *Xinhua News Agency*, 25 July 2019. Xu Wen (许雯), "Largest Scale Emergency Response Drill Staged in the Post-SARS Era" (后 SARS 时代, 上演最大规模应急演练), *The Beijing News* reposted on the *Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention* (Online), 05 August 2019.

<sup>547</sup> "National Health Commission Holds 2019 National Sudden Public Health Incident Emergency Drill" (国家卫健委举办 2019 年国家突发公共卫生事件应急演练), *Xinhua News Agency*, 25 July 2019.

<sup>548</sup> Ibid.

<sup>549</sup> Ibid.

<sup>550</sup> Ibid.

<sup>551</sup> "Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern," *World Health Organization* (Online), 17 July 2019.

<sup>552</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Study by the Party Committee's Plenary Central Group and Special Investigation and Study Meeting of the Educational Theme 'Never Forgetting our Original Aspiration and Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所召开党委扩大中心组学习暨 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育专题调研会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 July 2019. For a general summary of the Xi speech, see Chris Buckley, "2019 is a Sensitive Year for China. Xi is Nervous," *New York Times*, 25 February 2019.

<sup>553</sup> The quoted text is "肖庚富强调, 保证国家安全是头等大事. 为维护政治, 经济, 社会等重点领域国家安全, 我们必须始终保持高度警惕, 既要警惕 '黑天鹅' 事件, 也要防范 '灰犀牛' 事件." Note that the second half of the quote was borrowed verbatim from Xi's speech. "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Study by the Party Committee's Plenary Central Group and Special Investigation and Study Meeting of the Educational Theme 'Never Forgetting our Original Aspiration and Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所召开党委(扩大)中心组学习暨 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育专题调研会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 July 2019.

<sup>554</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "我们要提高风险化解能力, 透过现象看本质, 力争把风险化解在源头, 防止各种风险传导, 叠加, 演变, 升级..."



<sup>555</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “他指出，P4 实验室的发展要注重和合文化，实验室内部要加强组织协调... 进一步增强所内员工的归属感，使 P4 实验室在生物安全大科学中心的建设中发挥更大的作用。”

<sup>556</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “她指出，本次会议内容详实，重点突出，将提出的问题按轻重缓急的原则归类，优先解决当前面临的紧迫性问题，并对下一步的工作进行部署和安排，确保责任落实到位，工作措施到位，推动研究所稳步持续的发展。”

<sup>557</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “他通过聚焦‘卡脖子’问题，对标国家需求，从实验室的设施硬件及技术层面，生物安全管理，与研究所的协同发展，员工激励与奖励等方面，深入剖析了 P4 实验室当前存在的主要问题及解决问题的主要思路。”

<sup>558</sup> James Le Duc and Zhi-ming Yuan, “Safety and Security in the Age of Synthetic Biology,” *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity*, 1 (2019), pg. 77-79, published in September 2019.

<sup>559</sup> Ibid.

<sup>560</sup> Ibid.

<sup>561</sup> See, Wang Xiaoli (王小理) and Tang Hong(唐宏), “Taking the Community of Common Destiny for Mankind as the Vision, Planning for Scientific and Technological Innovation to Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases” (王小理唐宏：以人类命运共同体视野谋划传染病防控科技创新), the *Study Times* reposted on the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 16 August 2019.

<sup>562</sup> The “community of common destiny for mankind” (人类命运共同体) is the signature foreign policy slogan of Xi Jinping. For more information, see Liza Tobin, “Xi’s Vision for Transforming Global Governance: A Strategic Challenge for Washington and its Allies,” *Texas National Security Review*, Vol 2, Issue 1, November 2018.

<sup>563</sup> The quoted text is “以人类命运共同体视野谋划传染病防控科技创新.” See Wang Xiaoli (王小理) and Tang Hong(唐宏), “Taking the Community of Common Destiny for Mankind as the Vision, Planning for Scientific and Technological Innovation to Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases” (王小理唐宏：以人类命运共同体视野谋划传染病防控科技创新), the *Study Times* reposted on the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 16 August 2019.

<sup>564</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “重大传染病疫情并不遥远。”

<sup>565</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “加快传染病防控科技创新必要而迫切。”

<sup>566</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “传染病疫情爆发有复杂的成因。”

<sup>567</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “从威胁角度看，生物技术的进步增加了微生物被滥用或成为大流行病原体的风险。传染病病原体也可以是人为制造或是实验室事故无意泄漏的，例如 2017 年加拿大科学家成功合成类似天花的马痘病毒。”

<sup>568</sup> UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, “New scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention: background information document : addendum / submitted by the Implementation Support Unit,” Seventh Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, *United Nations Digital Library*, 23 November 2011, p. 4.

<sup>569</sup> Liu Jie (刘杰), Ren Xiaobo (任小波), Yao Yuan (姚远), Chu Xin (褚鑫), Yi Xuan (易轩), and Su Ronghui (苏荣辉), “An Analysis of the Current Situation for Biosafety Problems in our Country and Countermeasures” (我国生物安全问题的现状分析及对策), *Bulletin of the Chinese Academy of Sciences*, 31 (4): pg. 387-393, 09 March 2016. Note: Yi Xuan was the expert affiliated with the WIV. The others were described as working for the CAS “Bureau of Major R&D Programs” (重大科技任务局) in Beijing.

<sup>570</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “人为合成的各类生物因子 (生物大分子如 XNA, 酶类, 合成生物如病毒, CRISPR/Cas9 等基因编辑技术产物及转基因生物等), 有助于各类生物因子的繁殖, 传播, 扩散等技术的开发, 滥用与吴用; 生物安全实验室危险物品等。”

<sup>571</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “各类生物危害的发生, 都是在一定适应性条件下, 某种或数种生物因子通过各自独特的繁殖 (复制) 与传播的方式, 集中暴发, 实现对人 (动植物) 及环境的危害. 包括两方面... (2) 人为, 如缺乏管控的生物技术开发活动; 高等级生物安全实验室危险材料外泄; 生物技术制品及技术的无序开发与商业化, 军事应用, 爆恐事件等。”

<sup>572</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “病原体安全监管难度加大, 高等级生物实验室发生人为破坏或泄露的风险较大。”

<sup>573</sup> Public health drills of this nature have been held at airports elsewhere in the world for years, and the drills at Chinese airports are not unusual in this regard. However, when one considers the tabletop exercise of an

unprecedented scale staged in July, these subsequent airport drills in August, and most conspicuously, the too-coincidental-to-be-coincidental drill that was held at the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport on September 18, it raises the possibility, at least, that these drills were not as routine as they may first appear.

<sup>574</sup> “Shanghai Customs and Municipal Health Commission Sign Agreement on Joint Prevention Joint Control Cooperation, Simultaneously Hold Emergency Drills for World Import Expo” (上海海关与市卫生健康委联防联控合作协议签署, 进博会应急演练同时举行), the *Shanghai Municipal Health Commission and Shanghai Municipal Administration of Chinese Traditional Medicine* (Online), 13 August 2019.

<sup>575</sup> The key quoted phrase is “此次演练模拟情景为我国驻某国企业暴发群体性不明原因疾病。” See, “Customs General Office Holds Port of Entry Sudden Public Health Incident Emergency Drill” (海关总署举办口岸突发公共卫生事件应急演练), *Xinhua News Agency*, 19 August 2019.

<sup>576</sup> The quoted text is taken from the following line: “海关总署副署长张际文介绍说,此次演练是坚决贯彻习近平总书记“筑牢口岸检疫防线”重要指示精神。” See, “Improving Emergency Management Capabilities to Firmly Construct an Epidemic Inspection Line of Defense: The General Office of the Customs Administration Holds Emergency Drills for Sudden Public Health Incidents at Ports,” (提升处突能力筑牢检疫防线 海关总署举办口岸突发公共卫生事件应急演练), *Legal Daily* reprinted on the *Nanjing Municipal Customs Administration* (Online), 20 August 2019.

<sup>577</sup> Ibid. The quoted passage is “张际文介绍,当前全球公共卫生形势十分复杂严峻,防范传染病特别是重大新发突发传染病跨境传播,时不我待,刻不容缓。”

<sup>578</sup> The quoted text is drawn from the passage “中国疾病预防控制中心,军事医学研究院相关专家认为,当前国际疫情形势严峻复杂,举办应急演练至关重要,此次应急演练贴近实际...” See, “Customs General Office Holds Port of Entry Sudden Public Health Incident Emergency Drill” (海关总署举办口岸突发公共卫生事件应急演练), *Xinhua News Agency*, 19 August 2019.

<sup>579</sup> There was a localized outbreak of Ebola underway in North Kivu and Ituri provinces of the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019, and while the WHO had declared the outbreak a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” in July, there had been no cases outside of the Congo and the WHO judged that “global risk levels remain low” for Ebola in updates that it provided in August before these PRC officials made their comments. See, “Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern,” *World Health Organization* (Online), 17 July 2019, and “Ebola Virus Disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo,” *World Health Organization*, 15 August 2019. Saudi Arabia had also reported seven cases of the MERS coronavirus in June 2019, but MERS is not airborne, and it had displayed a limited ability to sustain human-to-human transmission since it was first detected in 2012. Only 2,449 total cases of MERS had been reported worldwide (mostly in the Middle East) from 2012 to July 2019, including just one imported case to China in 2015. The WHO did not advise member states to take any special measures in response to the cases of MERS reported in Saudi Arabia in June 2019, only standard surveillance for acute respiratory infections. See, “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV),” *World Health Organization*, 24 July 2019. Yanzhong Huang, “Does MERS Pose a Serious Threat to China?,” *The Council on Foreign Relations*, 02 June 2015.

<sup>580</sup> A’Lin’Na (阿琳娜), “Xi’an Customs Holds Port of Entry Sudden Outbreak Public Health Incident Emergency Response Drill” (西安海关举办口岸突发公共卫生事件应急处置演练), *Chinanews.com*, 20 August 2019.

<sup>581</sup> Guizhen Wu, “Laboratory Safety in China: Past, Present, and Future,” *Biosafety and Health*, Volume 1, Issue 2, September 2019, pages 56-58, available online on 31 October 2019.

<sup>582</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added.

<sup>583</sup> The quoted text is “找差距,抓落实,努力开创生物安全科技创新。” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Situational Report Meeting for Educational Theme of ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Firmly Keeping in Mind our Mission’ and Situational Report Meeting for Rectification” (武汉病毒所召开 “不忘初心,牢记使命” 主题教育工作情况通报会暨整改情况通报会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 August 2019.

<sup>584</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “针对影响研究所发展的关键问题及职工关注的热点问题。”

<sup>585</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “形成了由 5 个方面共计 20 个问题组成的检视问题清单。”

<sup>586</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “对于能够立查立改的问题,认真开展了专项整治,明确分工,压实责任,责成分管所领导和相关部门限期完成;对于需要持续整改的问题,注重顶层设计,层层细化...通过精心组织,周密安排,通力合作,以钉钉子的精神,加快推进专项整治各项工作确保改到位,改彻底。”

<sup>587</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “肖庚富在总结中强调，此次主题教育既是一次思想整治的洗礼，也是对研究所的一次‘全面体检’。通过对制约研究所发展关键问题的持续整改落实，我们坚信，武汉病毒所有信心，有能力，做好高等级生物安全实验室建设，维护和管理。”

<sup>588</sup> The characters for the officials name are 汪大国. See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Opens a Special Democratic Life Meeting and Special Topic Meeting of the Party Committee on Searching for Disparities [Between our Work] and the Party Constitution and Party Regulations” (武汉病毒所召开党委对照党章党规找差距专题会和专题民主生活会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 August 2019.

<sup>589</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “对照党章党规，从思想，政治，作风，能力，廉政等五个方面，开诚布公地查找不足，分析问题，开展批评和自我批评，提出整改措施，真正达到红脸出汗，增进团结的效果。”

<sup>590</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “加强顶层设计，解决制约研究所发展的重要问题。” See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Meeting to Report on the Status of Special Democratic Life Meetings” (武汉病毒所召开专题民主生活会情况通报会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 August 2019.

<sup>591</sup> “State Key Research and Development Plan’s 2018-2019 Project on ‘Sudden Cross-Species Infection and Transmission of Major Zoonotic Pathogens’ Progress Meeting Successfully Convenes” (国家重点研发计划‘重大突发动物源性人兽共患病跨种感染与传播机制研究’2018-2019年度项目推进会成功召开), *National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention of the PRC Center for Disease Control and Prevention* (Online), 20 September 2019.

<sup>592</sup> Ibid.

<sup>593</sup> See author affiliations for Wenjie Tan, et. al., “Genomic Characterization and Epidemiology of 2019 Novel Coronavirus: Implications for Virus Origins and Receptor Binding,” *The Lancet*, 22 February 2020; 395(10224):565-574, published online on 30 January 2020.

<sup>594</sup> The quoted text is “总结了项目组立项以来在冠状病毒，西尼罗河病毒，基孔肯亚热病毒等重要人兽共患病病原跨种感染与传播机制研究中取得重要进展，亮点工作以及成果产出。” See, “State Key Research and Development Plan’s 2018-2019 Project on ‘Sudden Cross-Species Infection and Transmission of Major Zoonotic Pathogens’ Progress Meeting Successfully Convenes” (国家重点研发计划‘重大突发动物源性人兽共患病跨种感染与传播机制研究’2018-2019年度项目推进会成功召开), *National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention of the PRC Center for Disease Control and Prevention* (Online), 20 September 2019.

<sup>595</sup> “Safe Production has No ‘Inspection-Exempted Work Units’, Much Less ‘No Worries Work Units’,” (安全生产没有“免检单位,”更没有“放心单位”), the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 03 September 2019.

<sup>596</sup> While “safe production” (安全生产) sounds most applicable to industrial and manufacturing settings in English, its use in Chinese is broader, and can be used to refer to everything from laboratory operations to the manufacturing of commercial goods. It was used to refer to biosafety at the WIV in April and May 2019 reports previously cited in this chronology.

<sup>597</sup> “Safe Production has No ‘Inspection-Exempted Work Units’, Much Less ‘No Worries Work Units’,” (安全生产没有“免检单位,”更没有“放心单位”), the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 03 September 2019.

<sup>598</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “抓安全也不是一劳永逸的事情。有些工作暂时放一放恐怕也无大碍，但安全却一刻也不得放松，必须十二分地小心在意，天天抓，时时抓。”

<sup>599</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “一旦放松了安全，就极有可能‘引火烧身’，‘烧’至令人痛心疾首，悔之无极的地步。”

<sup>600</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “作为监管部门，也要把‘放心单位’纳入监管视线内，切不可‘一俊遮百’，只看到其‘亮点’，看不到其‘短板’，不能因为是标杆企业就‘放放手’，‘放一马’，致使企业失去外在的约束，监督，不知不觉中放松管理，放松了规范化操作要求，甚至刻意隐瞒自己存在的问题，问题越积累越多，越积累越严重，最终造成难以弥补的后果。”

<sup>601</sup> The quoted text is “领导干部要主动投身到各种斗争中去，在大是大非面前敢于亮剑，在矛盾冲突面前敢于迎难而上，在危机困难面前敢于挺身而出，在歪风邪气面前敢于坚决斗争。” See, “Xi Jinping Delivers Important Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Central Party School’s (Chinese Academy of Governance) Young Cadres Training Class” (习近平在中央党校(国家行政学院)中青年干部培训班开班式上发表重要讲话), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 03 September 2019.

<sup>602</sup> Ibid. David Bandurski, “The Party is Struggling,” *China Media Project*, 06 September 2019.



<sup>603</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “习近平强调, 斗争是一门艺术, 要善于斗争。在各种重大斗争中, 我们要坚持增强忧患意识和保持战略定力相统一, 坚持战略判断和战术决断相统一, 坚持斗争过程和斗争实效相统一。领导干部要守土有责, 守土尽责, 召之即来, 来之能战, 战之必胜。”

<sup>604</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “习近平强调, 中华民族伟大复兴, 绝不是轻轻松松, 敲锣打鼓就能实现的, 实现伟大梦想必须进行伟大斗争。”

<sup>605</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “在前进道路上我们面临的风险考验只会越来越复杂, 甚至会遇到难以想象的惊涛骇浪。我们面临的各种斗争不是短期的而是长期的, 至少要伴随我们实现第二个百年奋斗目标全过程。必须... 坚定斗争意志, 当严峻形势和斗争任务摆在面前时, 骨头要硬, 敢于出击 敢战能胜。”

<sup>606</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “领导干部要经受严格的思想淬炼, 政治历练, 实践锻炼, 在复杂严峻的斗争中经风雨, 见世面, 壮筋骨, 真正锻造成为烈火真金。”

<sup>607</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “要坚持在重大斗争中磨砺, 越是困难大, 矛盾多的地方, 越是形势严峻, 情况复杂的时候, 越能练胆魄, 磨意志, 长才干。”

<sup>608</sup> “Wuhan Municipal People’s Government General Office Notice Regarding the Issuance of the Implementation Plan for Reforming and Improving the Comprehensive Supervision System of the Medical and Health Industries in Wuhan” (市人民政府办公厅关于印发武汉市改革完善医疗卫生行业综合监管制度实施方案的通知), *Wuhan Municipal People’s Government* (Online), 21 April 2020. Note that while the document was created on 05 September 2019 and distributed to the relevant offices on 17 September 2019, it does not appear to have been published online until 21 April 2020.

<sup>609</sup> Ibid. The document’s index number (K28044908/2020-810796) indicates that it was published in 2020, as does the date on the URL ([http://www.wuhan.gov.cn/zwgk/xxgk/zfwj/bgtwj/202004/t20200421\\_1039064.shtml](http://www.wuhan.gov.cn/zwgk/xxgk/zfwj/bgtwj/202004/t20200421_1039064.shtml)).

<sup>610</sup> See, “Guiding Opinion of the General Office of the State Council on Reforming and Improving the Comprehensive Supervision System of Medical and Health Industries” (国务院办公厅关于改革完善医疗卫生行业综合监管制度的指导意见), *The Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 2018 (Document No. 63), 03 August 2018.

<sup>611</sup> The same directive for Guangzhou municipality, by contrast, came only five months after its provincial government of Guangdong released its directive.

<sup>612</sup> Beijing’s directive was released on 19 January 2020, just three days before Wuhan was placed on lockdown, and Shanghai’s directive was released on 29 April 2020.

<sup>613</sup> The quoted text is “主要任务及责任分工。” See “Wuhan Municipal People’s Government General Office Notice Regarding the Issuance of the Implementation Plan for Reforming and Improving the Comprehensive Supervision System of the Medical and Health Industries in Wuhan” (市人民政府办公厅关于印发武汉市改革完善医疗卫生行业综合监管制度实施方案的通知), the *Wuhan Municipal People’s Government* (Online), 21 April 2020.

<sup>614</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “坚持和加强党的全面领导。”

<sup>615</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “加强公立医院党的领导, 落实党委领导下的院长负责制, 健全“医院党委—党总支—党支部”三级党组织架构, 坚持党组织活动与业务工作有机融合, 推进活动创新、思想政治工作内容载体创新。”

<sup>616</sup> Ibid. “Party building” is 党建 and “join hands” is 联手.

<sup>617</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “深化公共卫生服务监管。”

<sup>618</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “依法加强对... 传染病防治, 实验室生物安全... 公共卫生服务的监管。”

<sup>619</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “加强对... 重大传染病规范报病、规范治疗和随访管理的监督检查。”

<sup>620</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “加强对公立医院公共卫生科能力建设和服务质量的考核, 确保完成公共卫生服务、突发事件卫生应急处置、紧急医学救援等任务。”

<sup>621</sup> The quoted text is “管理人员面对繁杂工作, 要保持耐心, 善于运用科学思维, 坚持以问题为导向, 主动思考解决问题的方式方法, 要有‘咬定青山不放松’的干事精神, 将工作做出成效。” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Party Branches Launch Specialized Educational Organization Life Meeting on ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Firmly Keeping in Mind our Mission’”(武汉病毒所机关党支部召开‘不忘初心, 牢记使命’主题教育专题组织生活会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 17 September 2019.

<sup>622</sup> “Central Committee No. 15 Patrol Inspection Group Opens Meeting on the Inspection of the Party Organization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and its Mobilization Work” (中央第十五巡视组巡视中国科学院党组工作动

委员会召开), *China Science Daily* as reprinted on the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 16 September 2019.

"Central Committee No. 15 Patrol Inspection Group Gives Feedback on Inspection Situation to Chinese Academy of Sciences Party Organization" (中央第十五巡视组向中国科学院党组反馈巡视情况), *CCP Central Commission on Discipline Inspection* (Online), 10 January 2020.

<sup>623</sup> The quoted text is 苏波指出, 巡视是政治监督, 是对中央和国家机关党组织履行政治责任和职责使命情况的全面政治体检。"Central Committee No. 15 Patrol Inspection Group Opens Meeting on the Inspection of the Party Organization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and its Mobilization Work" (中央第十五巡视组巡视中国科学院党组工作动员会召开), *China Science Daily* as reprinted on the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 16 September 2019.

<sup>624</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is 重点是关于违反政治纪律、组织纪律、廉洁纪律、群众纪律、工作纪律和生活纪律等方面的举报和反映。

<sup>625</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is 把“两个维护”作为根本任务 and 深入查找政治偏差。

<sup>626</sup> We have opted to use the official CCP translation of “两个维护” as the “two upholds.” Alternative translations include the “two safeguards,” the “two defends,” and the “two protects.”

<sup>627</sup> “Where the Significant Meaning of the ‘Two Upholds’ Comes From” (“两个维护”的重大意义从何而来) Seeking Truth (求是), 09 January 2021. “Full Text: Communiqué of 6th plenary session of 19th CPC Central Committee,” *Xinhua News Agency* posted on the *National People's Congress* (Online), 11 November 2021. Xu Wei, “Upholding Core Position of Xi is Vital Requirement,” *China Daily*, 13 November 2021. “CPC Meeting Underlines Core Status of Xi,” *Xinhua*, 27 December 2018. James Palmer, “In Xi’s Little Red Article, the Monotony is the Point,” *Foreign Policy*, 17 July 2020.

<sup>628</sup> “Central Committee No. 15 Patrol Inspection Group Gives Feedback on Inspection Situation to Chinese Academy of Sciences Party Organization” (中央第十五巡视组向中国科学院党组反馈巡视情况), the *CCP Central Commission on Discipline Inspection* (Online), 10 January 2020.

<sup>629</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “巡视也发现一些问题。主要是：贯彻习近平总书记‘三个面向’‘四个率先’重要指示批示精神尚有差距，落实加强党的全面领导要求不够到位... 院士管理监督工作存在薄弱环节... 形式主义、官僚主义以及违反中央八项规定精神问题依然存在... 选人用人坚持政治标准不够...”

<sup>630</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “以实际行动践行‘两个维护’” and “进一步做好院士增选和管理监督工作。”

<sup>631</sup> See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Centralized Warning Education Plenary Meeting and Internal Audit Work Activation Meeting” (武汉病毒所召开集中警示教育大会暨内部审计工作启动会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 06 September 2019.

<sup>632</sup> See, Hans Kühner, “Between Autonomy and Planning: The Chinese Academy of Science in Transition,” *Minerva*, Vol. 22, No. 1, March 1984, p.15-16.

<sup>633</sup> See Richard P. Suttmeier, Cong Cao, and Denis Fred Simon, “China’s Innovation Challenge and the Remaking of the Chinese Academy of Sciences,” *Innovations Journal*, Summer 2006, MIT University Press: Cambridge, MA, p. 80-81.

<sup>634</sup> “Complete Feedback from the Fourth Round of Inspections of the 19<sup>th</sup> Central Committee is Released” (十九届中央第四轮巡视反馈情况全部公布), *CCP Central Commission for Discipline Inspection* (Online), 10 January 2020.

<sup>635</sup> This data was found on the online Scientific Database Service Monitoring and Statistics System of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the WIV’s parent organization. This finding was first reported by the DRASTIC Research Group. Senator Rubio’s staff reviewed the original Chinese source and confirmed their finding. See, DRASTIC Research Group, “An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline,” *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 2-3, 5-6.

<sup>636</sup> The WIV called the database the Wildlife-Borne Viral Pathogen Database in its English publications, but a more precise translation would be the Wildlife-Borne Viral Pathogen Characteristic Database (野生动物携带病毒病原特色数据库). The database was managed by coronavirus expert Shi Zhengli, Director of the WIV Research Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases and the CAS Key Laboratory of Special Pathogens, and Deputy Director of the Wuhan National Biosafety Laboratory (BSL-4). In addition the original DRASTIC report cited above, the basic facts related to the removal of the database can also be found in the investigative report by Katherine Eban, “The Lab Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19’s Origins,” *Vanity Fair*, 03 June 2021.



<sup>637</sup> The Editorial Board, "We're still missing the origin story of this pandemic. China is sitting on the answers," *The Washington Post*, 05 February 2021. DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 2-3, 5-6.

<sup>638</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 5. Scientific Database Service Monitoring and Statistics System of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Online), as archived by DRASTIC Research Group, p. 7.

<sup>639</sup> Attempts to access the WIV database as recently as June 2022 were unsuccessful. The website is <http://batvirus.whiov.ac.cn/>

<sup>640</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 5.

<sup>641</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *SinoInsider*, April 2020, p. 15.

<sup>642</sup> The Editorial Board, "We're still missing the origin story of this pandemic. China is sitting on the answers," *Washington Post*, 05 February 2021. DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021.

<sup>643</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 7.

<sup>644</sup> *Ibid*, p. 1.

<sup>645</sup> John Sudworth, "Covid: Wuhan Scientist Would 'Welcome' Visit Probing Lab Leak Theory," *BBC News*, 21 December 2020.

<sup>646</sup> Tweet from @Tommy\_Cleary, 11:38 AM, March 10, 2021, as cited by DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 5.

<sup>647</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 5.

<sup>648</sup> "Sustaining the Response: Inside the WHO-China Mission," Chatham House as live streamed on YouTube, 10 March 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMlIEF58944&t=3249s>

<sup>649</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>650</sup> Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl, and Maia Hibbett, "NIH Documents Provide New Evidence U.S. Funded Gain-of-Function Research in Wuhan," *The Intercept*, 10 September 2021.

<sup>651</sup> The exact language from the proposal was "We will be running RNA Extractions from 1,000 bats per year (three samples per bat: oral, anal, and blood) in each year of the project." See, Peter Daszak (Principal Investigator), "Notice of Award: Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 27 May 2014, p. 84. The Notice of Award and the original proposal were published by *the Intercept* on 10 September 2021.

<sup>652</sup> The official project tender number was ZB0109-1909-ZCFW0943. See, "Corrected Announcement of Procurement Project for Security Services at the Zhengdian Science and Technology Campus of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology" (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所郑店科研园区保安服务采购项目更正公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), published on 12 September 2019 and corrected on 19 September 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it. <https://archive.ph/r0VWa#selection-149.0-152.0>

<sup>653</sup> The official project tender number was ZB0109-1909-ZCHW0913. See "Competitive Bid on Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology Central Air Conditioning Renovation Project" (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所中央空调改造工程竞争性磋商), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 16 September 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it. <https://archive.ph/bfoTD>

<sup>654</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>655</sup> Ai Hongxia (艾红霞), "Testing Begins for Special Passage through Airport for Military World Games" (军运会航空口岸专用通道开通测试), *Hebei Daily* reprinted by *Xinhua News Agency*, 26 September 2019.

<sup>656</sup> *Ibid*. The quoted text is "演练以实战形式, 模拟了... 机场口岸通道发现 1 例新型冠状病毒感染的处置全过程, 演练了从流行病学调查、医学排查、临时检疫区域设置、隔离留验、病例转送和卫生处理等多个环节."

<sup>657</sup> Yang Jun (杨均), "Wuhan Customs Hold Emergency Response Drill for Sudden Incidents at the Port of Entry as [Enter] 30-day Countdown to Military World Games" (武汉海关举办军运会倒计时 30 天暨口岸突发事件应急处



置演练), *Chutian Transportation Broadcasting* reprinted on *Sina.com*, 18 September 2019. Since this report has been removed from the Sina website, we include the relevant paragraph from which the quote was extracted here: “另据武汉机场海关副关李真涵介绍, 该关前期做了大量工作全力保障军运会口岸安全。制定了口岸核与辐射安全事件、化学类突发事件、生物类突发事件、口岸食源性疾病突发事件、口岸突发公共卫生事件、口岸动植物检疫突发事件等 8 个应急预案; 建立了覆盖全面、快速反应、高效运转、处置得当的应急处置体系; 成立了处置专家组和联络组; 启用了门户式核辐射监测系统, 形成了初探报警、定量定性分析和个人防护一体化的辐射探测工作机制; 加强了与省卫健委、中科院武汉病毒所合作, 建立疫情通报、病例转送和重点传染病研究合作机制; 实时开展专项实战化培训、桌面推演和大型实战化演练, 强化应急协调处置能力; 建全口岸快筛室, 增派护士驻点提高采样送样质量。” For another local media report that mentioned the exercise, but not the quote from Li Zhenhan, see Zhou Dan (周丹), “Guard the Security of the Nation’s Gates, Guarantee the Safety of the Military World Games: Wuhan Customs Drill Sudden Incident Emergency Response at the Port of Entry” (守国门安全, 保军运平安: 武汉海关演练口岸突发事件应急处置), *Chutian Metropolis Daily*, 18 September 2019.

<sup>658</sup> The quoted text is “双方将在新发突发传染病风险分析与预警预测、高致病性病原检测技术的研发应用、生物安全人才培养与交流, 病原资源数据共享等方面开展广泛科技合作。” “Wuhan Institute of Virology Signs Strategic Cooperation Agreement with the Wuhan Customs Administration” (武汉病毒所与武汉海关签署战略合作协议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>659</sup> Li Xiaoqin (李晓琴), “Wuhan Tianhe Airport Holds Ebola Outbreak Prevention and Control Exercise,” (武汉天河机场举行埃博拉疫情防控演练), *Chutian Metropolis Daily*, 13 November 2014.

<sup>660</sup> “2014-2016 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa,” *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (Online), accessed on 15 December 2021.

<sup>661</sup> We searched and reviewed public reports from 2007 to 2019.

<sup>662</sup> Beijing focused on avian flu while Shanghai chose an unspecified infectious disease. “Capital Airport Holds Olympics Safety Emergency Drills” (首都机场举行奥运安全应急演练), *CCTV* as reprinted by *Sina.com*, 27 June 2008. “Shanghai World Expo Inspection and Quarantine Emergency Preparedness Drills and Tests” (上海世博会检验检疫应急预案演练侧记), PRC State Administration for Market Regulation’s website *China Quality News*, 02 April 2010.

<sup>663</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, p. 35.

<sup>664</sup> “Executive Summary: Actions for Leaders to Take,” from *A World at Risk: Annual Report on Global Preparedness for Health Emergencies*, *Global Preparedness Monitoring Board* (Online), 10 September 2019, p. 3.

<sup>665</sup> *Ibid*, p. 4.

<sup>666</sup> “Board,” *Global Preparedness Monitoring Board* (Online), last accessed on 12 December 2021.

<sup>667</sup> George Fu Gao, “For a Better World: Biosafety Strategies to Protect Global Health,” *Biosafety and Health* 1 (1) (2019), p. 2.

<sup>668</sup> “Preparedness for a High-Impact Respiratory Pathogen Pandemic,” *Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security* posted on the *Global Preparedness Monitoring Board* (Online), 10 September 2019, p. 58-59.

<sup>669</sup> “Explanation Regarding the Draft Biosecurity Law of the People’s Republic of China” (关于中华人民共和国生物安全法草案的说明), *The National People’s Congress* (Online), 19 October 2020. Note: The explanation was delivered by Gao Hucheng, Chairman of the Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee, to the NPC Standing Committee on 21 October 2019, but it was not published until two days after the bill’s final passage in October 2020.

<sup>670</sup> “PCR Purchasing Report Wuhan China,” *Internet 2.0 Relentless Security*, October 2021, p. 9. Jamie Tarabay, “Bloomberg Government: China PCR Purchases Increased Before First Known Covid Cases,” *Bloomberg Government*, 04 October 2021.

<sup>671</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>672</sup> Ian Birrell, “Is ‘Patient Su’ Covid’s Patient Zero?,” *The Daily Mail*, 29 May 2021.

<sup>673</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “比如有一个 9 月 29 日发病的患者数据, 数据显示患者没有进行核酸检测, 临床诊断 (CT 诊断) 为疑似病例, 患者已死亡, 这个数据没有确诊, 也没有死亡时间, 也有可能是错误数据。” See, Wang Zhenya, “Expert Assesses the Source of the Novel Coronavirus: December 8 of Last Year May Not be the

Earliest Time of Onset,” (专家研判新冠源头: 去年 12 月 8 日或许不是最早发病时间), *Health Times* (健康时报网), 27 February 2020.

<sup>674</sup> We note that this is a state-run hospital directly under the Hubei provincial authorities. “Rongjun” refers to military veterans or disabled soldiers discharged from the military. The hospital website describes it as “having a glorious revolutionary history.”

<sup>675</sup> Ian Birrell, “Is ‘Patient Su’ Covid’s Patient Zero?,” *The Daily Mail*, 29 May 2021.

<sup>676</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>677</sup> This video conference was reported by the Fuzhou Municipal Health Commission in Jiangxi province. No other report of this video conference could be found, even though it was clearly national in scope, which suggests that its disclosure to the public may have been in error. “Municipal Health Commission Watches National Health System Biosecurity and Fire Prevention Work Video Conference” (市卫健委收看国家卫健系统生物安全和消防工作视频会), *Fuzhou Municipal People’s Government* (Online), 26 September 2019.

<sup>678</sup> “China Anniversary: Beijing Celebrations Mark 70 Years of Communist Rule,” *BBC News*, 01 October 2019. “Xi Focus: President Xi reviews armed forces on National Day for first time,” *Xinhua*, 01 October 2019.

<sup>679</sup> The quoted text is “提高政治站位, 扛起安全生产重任.” See, “Municipal Health Commission Watches National Health System Biosecurity and Fire Prevention Work Video Conference” (市卫健委收看国家卫健系统生物安全和消防工作视频会), *Fuzhou Municipal People’s Government* (Online), 26 September 2019.

<sup>680</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “深化隐患排查整治. 组织开展一次地毯式, 全覆盖, 无死角的安全排查...”

<sup>681</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “做好突发事件和重大事件信息报送, 保证 ‘首报’ 质量, 及时报送事件的重要信息, 为集中力量解决问题争取时间...”

<sup>682</sup> Virginia L. Ma and Meera S. Nair, “Coronavirus May Have Spread in China Last August, Preliminary Harvard Study Suggests,” *The Harvard Crimson*, 12 June 2020. John S. Brownstein, et al., “Analysis of hospital traffic and search engine data in Wuhan China indicates early disease activity in the Fall of 2019,” *Harvard Library* (2020), p 3.

<sup>683</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>684</sup> Russell J. Westergard, “Surviving the Outbreak: Reflections on ConGen Wuhan’s Evacuation and Life in Quarantine,” *STATE Magazine*, April 2020.

<sup>685</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, “The October Surprise in Wuhan,” *Research Gate*, October 2021, p. 5.

<sup>686</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, “Wuhan Laboratories, Bat Research, and Biosafety,” *Research Gate*, April 2021, p. 8.

<sup>687</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>688</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 166-167.

<sup>689</sup> “About Event 201,” *Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security* (Online), accessed on 15 December 2021.

<sup>690</sup> “The Event 201 Scenario,” *Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security* (Online), accessed on 15 December 2021.

<sup>691</sup> “Event 201 Players,” *Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security* (Online), accessed on 15 December 2021.

<sup>692</sup> Chris Elias of the Gates Foundation was the other participant from the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board.

<sup>693</sup> “Military World Games Opens in Wuhan, Ushering in New Era,” *XinhuaNet*, 18 October 2019.

<sup>694</sup> Josh Rogin, “Congress is Investigating Whether the 2019 Military World Games in Wuhan was a COVID-19 Superspreader Event,” *Washington Post*, 23 June 2021. Michael Houston, “More Athletes Claim They Contracted COVID-19 at Military World Games in Wuhan,” *Inside the Games* (Online), 17 May 2020. Kelly-Ann Mills, “French Army Returned from Wuhan Military Games in October with Mystery Illness,” *The Mirror*, 07 May 2020. Tristin Hopper, “First Reading: Could a Prior Chinese International Sports Event Have Seeded COVID-19 in Canada?,” *The National Post*, 15 December 2021.

<sup>695</sup> Tom Squitieri, “Did the Military World Games Spread COVID-19?,” *The American Prospect*, 30 June 2020. “Eleven Athletes in Iran Have Died of Coronavirus Infection,” *Radio Farda*, 22 March 2020.

<sup>696</sup> Amy Elise Winter, “The Impact of the World Military Games on the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, 19 January 2021, p. 1.

<sup>697</sup> “Explanation Regarding the Draft Biosecurity Law of the People’s Republic of China” (关于中华人民共和国生物安全法草案的说明), *The National People’s Congress* (Online), 19 October 2020.

<sup>698</sup> *Ibid.* The quote is “防范和禁止利用生物及生物技术侵害国家安全为重点.” For an English source, see Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, p. 10.

<sup>699</sup> “Draft Biosecurity Law Creates Penalties for Misuse of Biotechnology and Other [Mis]Conduct” (生物安全法草案拟对生物技术谬用等行为作出处罚), *Xinhua* reprinted on the *National People’s Congress* (Online), 21 October 2019. The quoted text is “针对我国法律对前一时期发生的生物技术谬用等行为和事件，缺乏相应处罚规定的问题，草案明确了相应的责任及处罚，填补了法律空白。”

<sup>700</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “草案规范、调整的范围分为八大类：一是防控重大新发突发传染病、动植物疫情；二是研究、开发、应用生物技术；三是保障实验室生物安全；四是保障我国生物资源和人类遗传资源的安全；五是防范外来物种入侵与保护生物多样性；六是应对微生物耐药；七是防范生物恐怖袭击；八是防御生物武器威胁。”

<sup>701</sup> Gao’s report references a “实验室生物泄漏.” See, “Explanation Regarding the Draft Biosecurity Law of the People’s Republic of China” (关于中华人民共和国生物安全法草案的说明), *The National People’s Congress* (Online), 19 October 2020.

<sup>702</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “生物技术在带给人类进步和益处的同时，也带来生物安全问题和威胁。当前我国生物安全形势严峻，生物战和以非典、埃博拉病毒、非洲猪瘟等为代表的重大新发突发传染病及动植物疫情等传统生物威胁依然多发，生物恐怖袭击、生物技术误用谬用、实验室生物泄漏等非传统生物威胁凸显。”

<sup>703</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “亟待通过生物安全立法应对上述挑战，用法律划定生物技术发展边界，引导和规范人类生物技术的研发应用，促进生物技术健康发展，防止和减少由生物技术侵害行为带来的危害。”

<sup>704</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “当前，我国在生物技术研发、基础设施建设上相对落后，在技术、产品和标准上存在较大差距，生物安全原创技术少，优秀成果少。”

<sup>705</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “将国家生物安全能力建设纳入法律... 牢牢掌握核心关键生物技术，依法保障和推进我国生物技术的发展，提升防范风险和威胁的能力。”

<sup>706</sup> See, “The Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Decision on Several Major Problems Concerning Adhering to and Improving upon the Socialist System with Chinese Characteristics and Promoting the Modernization of the National Governance System and Governance Capabilities” (中共中央关于坚持和完善中国特色社会主义制度推进国家治理体系和治理能力现代化若干重大问题的决定), *Xinhua News Agency* reposted on the *Hubei Provincial People’s Government* (Online), 08 November 2019. Note: the decision was made on October 31 and *Xinhua* first published it on November 5.

<sup>707</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “加强公共卫生防疫和重大传染病防控，健全重特大疾病医疗保险和救助制度。”

<sup>708</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “强化国家战略科技力量，健全国家实验室体系。”

<sup>709</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021, pg. 2, 5. Note that Senator Rubio’s staff has independently verified Markson’s account of this conversation with the individuals that she interviewed.

<sup>710</sup> Conversation with Senator Rubio’s staff, December 16, 2021.

<sup>711</sup> Markson, p. 15-17. The doctor’s identity must be protected for obvious personal safety reasons. Senator Rubio’s staff was unable to corroborate this particular account as a result.

<sup>712</sup> See “Hubei Provincial Development and Reform Commission Opinion and Work Notice Concerning the Implementation of the Strategy to Accelerate the Rise of the Central Region and Promote High-Quality Development” (省发展改革委关于落实促进中部地区崛起战略推动高质量发展意见工作的通知), *Hubei Provincial People’s Government* (Online), 29 November 2019. Note: the directive was approved on November 1, but not publicized until November 29.

<sup>713</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “加强关键领域自主创新。”

<sup>714</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “保障武汉国家生物安全实验室高效安全运行。积极推进东湖实验室建设。”

<sup>715</sup> The Office of the Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State, “Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology,” *U.S. Department of State* (Online), 15 January 2021.

<sup>716</sup> Michael R. Gordon, Warren P. Strobel, and Drew Hinshaw, “Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate on Covid-19 Origin,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 23 May 2021.

<sup>717</sup> John Sexton, “Josh Rogin: The Sick Researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology Lost their Sense of Smell,” *Hot Air*, 23 August 2021; and Honestly with Bari Weiss, “You’re Already Living in China’s World Pt 1: The Lab Leak Lies,” *Apple Podcasts*, 23 August 2021.



<sup>718</sup> Ibid.

<sup>719</sup> "PCR Purchasing Report Wuhan China," Internet 2.0 Relentless Security, October 2021, p. 9. Jamie Tarabay, "Bloomberg Government: China PCR Purchases Increased Before First Known Covid Cases," *Bloomberg Government*, 04 October 2021.

<sup>720</sup> Ashley Hagan, "COVID-19 and the Flu," *American Society for Microbiology* (Online), 07 October 2021.

<sup>721</sup> "The Use of PCR in the Surveillance and Diagnosis of Influenza," *World Health Organization* (Online), Report of the 4th meeting of the WHO working group on polymerase chain reaction protocols for detecting subtype influenza A viruses, Geneva, Switzerland, 14–15 June 2011.

<sup>722</sup> Jamie Tarabay, "Bloomberg Government: China PCR Purchases Increased Before First Known Covid Cases," *Bloomberg Government*, 04 October 2021.

<sup>723</sup> "School of Life Sciences Holds Drills for Fire Prevention Evacuation and Leak of Hazardous Waste," (生命科学学院举行消防疏散和危废泄漏演练), *Peking University School of Life Sciences* (Online), 08 November 2019.

<sup>724</sup> Ibid. The quoted Chinese terms are "危废泄漏" and "生物培养基泄漏事故."

<sup>725</sup> "Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任, 坚守使命 做我国高等级生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>726</sup> Ibid. The party branch had 17 members at the BSL-4 lab alone, 7 of whom were associate senior researchers or higher, with an average age of 35. The quoted text is "是一支年轻有干劲的队伍."

<sup>727</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "实现党建工作全覆盖."

<sup>728</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is "郑店实验室党支部非常重视解决进口关键核心设备 '卡脖子' 问题, 通过组织关键核心设备的管理交流会, 由各核心设备管理人员从设备的结构组成、工作原理、逻辑控制等方面进行介绍, 大家就所关心设备的技术、生物安全、使用程序等问题进行充分讨论, 不断克服技术障碍."

<sup>729</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Party Committee Convenes Central Group Plenary Study Session" (武汉病毒所党委召开中心组 (扩大) 学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 September 2018.

<sup>730</sup> "Wuhan Branch Opens Fourth Quarter Party Building Work Advancement Meeting" (武汉分院召开第四季度党建工作推进会), *Wuhan Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 26 December 2018.

<sup>731</sup> See "Xiang Shuilun Examines the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Work of Establishing a 'Red Flag Party Branch'" (项水伦考核武汉病毒所"红旗党支部"创建工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 11 June 2019; "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Promotion Meeting for Work on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission' and a Study Session of the Expanded Party Committee Central Group" (武汉病毒所召开 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育工作推进会暨党委中心组 (扩大) 学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 June 2019; and "Wuhan Institute of Virology's Zhengdian Laboratory Party Branch is Awarded with Honorary Title of 'Red Flag Party Branch' from Hubei Provincial Work Committee for Directly Subordinate Organizations" (武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部荣获湖北省直机关工委 "红旗党支部" 荣誉称号), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 01 July 2019.

<sup>732</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Study by the Party Committee's Plenary Central Group and Special Investigation and Study Meeting of the Educational Theme 'Never Forgetting our Original Aspiration and Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'" (武汉病毒所召开党委扩大中心组学习暨 "不忘初心, 牢记使命" 主题教育专题调研会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 July 2019.

<sup>733</sup> The quoted text is "习近平总书记强调, '关键核心技术是国之重器,'" and "习近平总书记指出, 'P4 实验室建设对中国公共卫生至关重要.'" See, "Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任, 坚守使命 做我国高等级生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>734</sup> The quoted text is "习近平总书记指出, '我国面临的很多卡脖子技术问题, 根子是基础理论研究跟不上, 源头和底层的東西没有搞清楚.'" See Hou Jianguo (侯建国), "Make Science and Technology Self-Reliance and Self-

Improvement the Strategic Support for National Development” (把科技自立自强作为国家发展的战略支撑), *Wuhan Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 17 March 2021.

<sup>735</sup> See the official website of the Shenzhen Institute of Synthetic Biology at <http://www.isynbio.org/research-center.aspx>. Its purpose is described thusly: “The Research and Development Center for Key Equipment in Synthetic Biology is dedicated to solving the ‘stranglehold’ problem of key common technologies and tools in synthetic biology, developing key technologies for de novo DNA synthesis and developing independently patented high-performance DNA synthesizers, and promoting the rapid development of the synthetic biology research and industry.” The Chinese text is “合成生物关键设备研发中心致力于解决合成生物学关键共性技术与工具的“卡脖子”问题，开展DNA从头合成关键技术研发和自主知识产权高性能DNA合成仪研制，推动合成生物学科研究与产业的快速发展。”

<sup>736</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “由于P4实验室的研究对象是高致病性病原微生物，在实验室里，一旦打开了保存病毒的试管，犹如打开了潘多拉魔盒，这些病毒来无影去无踪，虽有各种防护措施，但仍然需要实验人员小心翼翼的操作，避免由于操作失误而造成危险。每当这时，郑店实验室党支部党员总是冲在第一线，他们用实际行动带动和感染着实验室其他人员。” See, “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任，坚守使命 做我国高等生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>737</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “在实验室里，他们常常需要连续工作4个小时，甚至长达6小时，期间不能饮食，排泄，这对人的意志和体力是极大的考验。这不仅要求实验人员要具备熟练的操作技能，还要具备应对各种意外情况的能力。” Note that the word translated here as “unexpected” (意外) can also refer to an “accident” or “mishap” when used as a noun.

<sup>738</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “不要将工作任务看作压力，每一个任务都是你不断提升自我的机遇和阶梯。我们这个团队的理念是吃亏是福...”

<sup>739</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “武汉P4实验室在建设伊始面临着无设备和技术标准、无设计和建设团队、无运维经验的“三无”困境，经过郑店实验室党支部的党员带头攻坚克难、奋勇向前，最终实现了即有完善的标准体系、有精良的运维团队、有宝贵的建设经验的“三有。”

<sup>740</sup> See “Xiang Shuilun Examines the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Work of Establishing a ‘Red Flag Party Branch’” (项水伦考核武汉病毒所“红旗党支部”创建工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 11 June 2019.

<sup>741</sup> The quoted text is “实验室党员首先想到的就是设备安。” See, “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任，坚守使命 做我国高等生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>742</sup> Ibid.

<sup>743</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “经过对进口设备的消化吸收再创新，使实验室建设满足国内和国际标准、法国设计理念符合中国建筑要求等。”

<sup>744</sup> Emphasis added. Ibid. The quoted text is “例如，实验室核心区域的围护结构，实验室团队通过反复测试，用先进的激光焊接方式替代了传统的胶密封方式，具有更好的气密性和耐久的效果，P4团队拥有该技术的自主知识产权；自主设计自动控制的数学模型，达到更稳定的压差控制效果等。”

<sup>745</sup> “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任，坚守使命 做我国高等生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Party Building* (科苑党建), 30 August 2019.

<sup>746</sup> The quoted text is “他们建设并运行着我国首个P4实验室，这个拥有最先进防护设备，生物安全等级最高的实验室。” See, “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任，坚守使命 做我国高等生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.



<sup>747</sup> Ibid. The relevant text is “在该建设团队中, 共有副高级及以上技术人员 7 人, 全部为中共党员。”

<sup>748</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 218.

<sup>749</sup> The change in Chinese was from “由于安全要求, 武汉 P4 实验室的实验人员...” to “P4 实验室由于安全要求, 实验人员...” For comparison, see “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任, 坚守使命 做我国高等级生物安全领域的开拓者—中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Party Building* (科苑党建), 30 August 2019; and “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任, 坚守使命 做我国高等级生物安全领域的开拓者—中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>750</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The August version read: “由于武汉 P4 实验室的研究对象是高致病性病原微生物...” whereas the November version read: “由于 P4 实验室的研究对象是高致病性病原微生物...”

<sup>751</sup> Ibid. The August version read: “经过对进口设备的消化吸收再创新, 使实验室建设满足国内和国际标准。” Full stop. The November version kept that sentence in full, but replaced the period with a comma and added “法国设计理念符合中国建筑要求等。”

<sup>752</sup> Ibid. The relevant Chinese text is “例如, 实验室核心区域的围护结构, 实验室团队通过反复测试, 用先进的激光焊接方式替代了传统的胶密封方式, 具有更好的气密性和耐久的效果, P4 团队拥有该技术的自主知识产权; 自主设计自动控制的数学模型, 达到更稳定的压差控制效果等。”

<sup>753</sup> Ibid. The August version read: “由于武汉 P4 实验室的研究对象是高致病性病原微生物, 因此在实验室里, 一旦打开保存病毒的试管, 就如同打开了“潘多拉魔盒。” 每当这时, 郑店实验室党支部党员总是冲在第一线, 用实际行动带动和感染着实验室其他人员。” The November text, by contrast, read: “由于 P4 实验室的研究对象是高致病性病原微生物, 在实验室里, 一旦打开了保存病毒的试管, 犹如打开了潘多拉魔盒, 这些病毒来无影去无踪, 虽有各种防护措施, 但仍然需要实验人员小心翼翼的操作, 避免由于操作失误而造成危险。每当这时, 郑店实验室党支部党员总是冲在第一线, 他们用实际行动带动和感染着实验室其他人员。”

<sup>754</sup> Josephine Ma, “Coronavirus: China’s First Confirmed Covid-19 Case Traced Back to November 17,” *South China Morning Post*, 13 March 2020.

<sup>755</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added.

<sup>756</sup> Ibid. For a fuller analysis of the significance of Ma’s reporting, see Daniel R. Lucey, “Will the China report on 266 patients Nov. 17-Dec. 31, 2019 be made public by China, WHO, or by WHA resolution next week?,” *Infectious Diseases Society of America* (Online), 20 May 2021.

<sup>757</sup> “WHO-Convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part,” Joint WHO-China Study: 14 January to 10 February 2021, *World Health Organization* (Online), 30 March 2021, p. 7.

<sup>758</sup> Josephine Ma, “Coronavirus: China’s First Confirmed Covid-19 Case Traced Back to November 17,” *South China Morning Post*, 13 March 2020.

<sup>759</sup> The researcher was Dr. Steven Quay. For a transcript of his comments, see David Asher, “Transcript: Uncovering the Origins of COVID-19: A Scientific Discussion,” *the Hudson Institute* (Online), 16 June 2021; and Melissa Wilson, “Researcher Traces Origin of COVID-19,” *FOX 25 Houston*, 04 January 2021.

<sup>760</sup> Ibid.

<sup>761</sup> Ian Birrell, “Is ‘Patient Su’ Covid’s Patient Zero?” *The Daily Mail*, 29 May 2021.

<sup>762</sup> The quoted text is “11 月有两个患者病例, 发病时间分别是 2019 年 11 月 14 日和 11 月 21 日... 一位 11 月底发病患者, 12 月 2 号住院, 临床诊断为肺炎。” See Wang Zhenya, “Expert Assesses the Source of the Novel Coronavirus: December 8 of Last Year May Not be the Earliest Time of Onset,” (专家研判新冠源头: 去年 12 月 8 日或许不是最早发病时间), *Health Times* (健康时报网), 27 February 2020.

<sup>763</sup> See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches Training on Safety Work” (武汉病毒所开展安全工作培训), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 November 2019.

<sup>764</sup> Ibid. Note the official’s name in Chinese is 汲长征. The Chinese title of his report was “中国科学院安全工作形势与任务,” and “specially invited” is “特邀。”



<sup>765</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “汲长征传达了党中央、国务院关于安全工作的指示要求，重点宣传贯彻了习近平总书记、李克强总理关于安全工作的重要论述和重要批示。同时，结合近些年国内外多次大型安全事故案例，从责任担当、操作规范、应急预案、隐患排查等方面展开多层次多角度深入剖析，生动展现出目前安全工作所面临的复杂、严峻形势。最后，汲长征针对中科院实际情况，就实验室安全、科技安全、学生安全、园区安全及网络安全等安全管理工作中存在的普遍问题进行了归纳和分析。”

<sup>766</sup> For more information on the *pishi* system, see Wen-Hsuan Tsai and Xingmiu Liu, “Concentrating Power to Accomplish Big Things: The CCP’s Pishi System and Operation in Contemporary China,” *Journal of Contemporary China*, 26 (104), September 2016, p. 1-14; and Wen-Hsuan Tsai, “A Unique Pattern of Policymaking in China’s Authoritarian Regime: The CCP’s Neican/Pishi Model,” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 55, No. 6, University of California Press: November/December 2015, pp. 1093-1115. A note on the translation of 批示 and 指示 is warranted. *Pishi* is a well-established system for written orders/instructions/directives in the CCP. *Zhishi*, by contrast, is a much more general term that means “instructions” or “directives.” When paired with *pishi*, we translate *zhishi* as “oral instructions” because we understand it to refer to orders handed down outside of the *pishi* system, such as in a speech or at a meeting, which is usually done orally. Strictly speaking, the word *zhishi* itself does not spell out the mode of transmission for the instructions. It is ambiguous. Sometimes CCP officials, including Xi, explicitly say “oral instructions” (口头指示), and at other times they just say “instructions” (指示), but again, the oral nature of the transmission is implied when paired with *pishi*, which is always written.

<sup>767</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “提出做好安全管理工作一是要强化认识，提高政治站位；二是要明晰权责，推动责任落实；三是要统筹协调，强化管控治理；四是要加强科技安全风险研究和预警监测体系建设。安全管理人员要强化使命担当，夯实责任，齐心共筑科研发展的安全屏障...” See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches Training on Safety Work” (武汉病毒所开展安全工作培训), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 November 2019.

<sup>768</sup> The Chinese quote is “要加快科技安全预警监测体系建设。” See, “Xi Jinping: Be on Guard against ‘Black Swan’ Incidents, Prevent ‘Grey Rhinos,’” (习近平：警惕“黑天鹅” 防范“灰犀牛”), *the People’s Daily*, 22 January 2019.

<sup>769</sup> “Xi Jinping Delivers Important Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Central Party School’s (Chinese Academy of Governance) Young Cadres Training Class” (习近平在中央党校（国家行政学院）中青年干部培训班开班式上发表重要讲话), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 03 September 2019.

<sup>770</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “培训会上，武汉病毒所安保办副主任胡谦总结了过去一年安全检查过程中发现的若干共性问题，指出安全隐患可能引发的严重后果，强调隐患整改要彻底，规范管理要保持。” See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches Training on Safety Work” (武汉病毒所开展安全工作培训), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 November 2019.

<sup>771</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “加强安全法规、规章制度宣贯，进一步完善操作流程，防范各类安全风险，保障研究所科研生产安全。”

<sup>772</sup> See, “Central Committee No. 15 Patrol Inspection Group Opens Meeting on the Inspection of the Party Organization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and its Mobilization Work” (中央第十五巡视组巡视中国科学院党组工作动员会召开), *China Science Daily* as reprinted on the *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 16 September 2019.

<sup>773</sup> “Institute of Botany Holds 2019 Annual Safety Training” (植物所举办 2019 年度安全培训), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 14 November 2019.

<sup>774</sup> “The Chinese Academy of Sciences’ 2019 Training for Management Cadres at Subordinate Work Units on Internet Security and Informatization is Held in Urumqi” (中科院 2019 年院属单位网络安全和信息化主管干部培训班在乌鲁木齐举办), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 30 August 2019; Security Office for Chinese Academy of Sciences General Office Arrives at Kashgar Station for Safety Inspection Work” (中科院办公厅科安处到喀什站检查安全工作), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 05 September 2019.

<sup>775</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes 2019 Security Work Conference” (武汉病毒所召开 2019 年度安全工作会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 08 April 2019.

<sup>776</sup> See, “Inter-Departmental Joint Theoretical Study Session Discusses Work in 2017” (处际联席务虚会共同研讨 2017 年工作), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 14 February 2017; “Training for Tibet Network and

Telecommunications Cadres Begins" (西藏网信干部业务培训班正式开班), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Computing Technology* (Online), 23 May 2018; "Computing and Network Information Center Organizes Conference on the Implementation and Planning for System to Pilot Nex-Generation ARP" (计算机网络信息中心组织召开新一代 ARP 试点系统实施工作部署会议), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Computing and Network Information Center* (Online), 24 July 2018; "Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences Convenes 2020 Annual Safety Personnel Meeting" (生态环境研究中心召开 2020 年度安全员工作会议), *CAS Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences* (Online), 14 January 2019; "Chinese Academy of Sciences Secretary-General Deng Maicun Leads a Team to the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry to Inspect Safety Work" (中科院秘书长邓麦村带队来理化所检查安全工作), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry* (Online), 16 January 2019; "Beijing Branch of CAS Convenes 2019 Annual Outdoor Field Station Safety Management Work Professional Training" (北京分院召开 2019 年度野外台站安全管理业务培训班) *Beijing Branch of Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 15 October 2019; "Institute of Botany Holds 2019 Annual Safety Training" (植物所举办 2019 年度安全培训), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 14 November 2019.

<sup>777</sup> "Nanjing Branch of CAS Convenes 2019 Safety Work Conference" (南京分院召开 2019 年安全工作会议), *Nanjing Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 24 May 2019.

<sup>778</sup> "Chinese Academy of Sciences Western Region Convenes 18<sup>th</sup> Safe Research Meeting in Chongqing" (中科院西部地区第十八届安研会在渝召开), *CAS Chongqing Institute of Green and Intelligent Technology* (Online), 28 May 2019.

<sup>779</sup> "Guangzhou Branch of CAS Convenes 2019 Conference on Safety and Protecting Secret Information" (广州分院召开 2019 年安全保密工作会议), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 17 May 2019.

<sup>780</sup> "The Chinese Academy of Sciences' 2019 Training for Management Cadres at Subordinate Work Units on Internet Security and Informatization is Held in Urumqi" (中科院 2019 年院属单位网络安全和信息化主管干部培训班在乌鲁木齐举办), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 30 August 2019.

<sup>781</sup> "Security Office for Chinese Academy of Sciences General Office Arrives at Kashgar Station for Safety Inspection Work" (中科院办公厅科安处到喀什站检查安全工作), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 05 September 2019.

<sup>782</sup> Zhu Huiqiao (朱卉乔), "Chinese Academy of Sciences 2019 Training for Management Cadres at Subordinate Work Units for Safety Management is Held in Hefei" (中国科学院 2019 年度院属单位安全管理干部培训在合肥举办), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 12 September 2019.

<sup>783</sup> "Shenyang Branch of CAS Convenes 2021 Annual Safety Work Conference" (2021 年安全工作会议), *Shenyang Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 27 May 2021; "Shenyang Branch of CAS Convenes 2022 Safety Work Conference" (沈阳分院召开 2022 年安全工作会议), *Shenyang Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 09 June 2022.

<sup>784</sup> "Changchun Branch of CAS Organizes and Convenes 2022 Annual Safety Work Conference" (长春分院组织召开 2022 年度安全工作会议), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Changchun Branch* (Online), 01 June 2022.

<sup>785</sup> "Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering Convenes Conference on Analyze Trend Analysis of Safety Work During the First Half of 2022" (宁波材料所召开 2022 年上半年安全形势分析会), *Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering* (Online), 14 July 2022.

<sup>786</sup> "Shanghai Institute of Ceramics Convenes Summer Session of Production Safety Conference" (上海硅酸盐所召开夏季安全生产会议), *Shanghai Institute of Ceramics* (Online), 05 September 2022.

<sup>787</sup> The relevant text from which the quote was taken is "深入贯彻落实习近平总书记治边稳藏和发展网络强国重要战略思想,特别是打造一支过硬的网信队伍批示精神." See, "Training for Tibet Network and Telecommunications Cadres Begins" (西藏网信干部业务培训班正式开班), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Computing Technology* (Online), 23 May 2018.

<sup>788</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is "学习传达习近平总书记关于安全稳定工作的重要指示批示精神." "Changchun Branch of CAS Organizes and Convenes 2022 Annual Safety Work Conference" (长春分院组织召开 2022 年度安全工作会议), *Chinese Academy of Sciences Changchun Branch* (Online), 01 June 2022.

<sup>789</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is "习近平总书记关于安全生产的重要指示批示精神." "Shenyang Branch of CAS Convenes 2022 Safety Work Conference" (沈阳分院召开 2022 年安全工作会议), *Shenyang Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 09 June 2022; "Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering Convenes

Conference on Analyze Trend Analysis of Safety Work During the First Half of 2022" (宁波材料所召开 2022 年上半年安全形势分析会), *Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering* (Online), 14 July 2022.

<sup>790</sup> See "Xi Jinping: Speech to the Chinese Academy of Sciences' 19th Plenary Meeting of Academicians and the Chinese Academy of Engineering's 14th Plenary Meeting of Academicians" (习近平：在中国科学院第十九次院士大会、中国工程院第十四次院士大会上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 28 May 2018.

<sup>791</sup> "The Party Organization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Studies and Carries Out General Secretary Xi Jinping's Important Speeches, Written Instructions, and Oral Instructions on the Work of the CAS" (中科院党组学习贯彻习近平总书记关于中科院工作重要讲话批示指示), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 01 September 2017.

<sup>792</sup> *Ibid.* Here is an illustrative example from the text: "习近平总书记的重要讲话批示指示充分肯定了中科院科技创新取得的丰硕成果,充分体现了党中央对中科院这支国家战略科技力量的高度重视,充分信任,殷切厚望和莫大鞭策."

<sup>793</sup> The quoted text is extracted from the following sentence: "为了贯彻落实国务院领导同志关于北京交通大学'12.26' 实验室爆炸事故重要指示批示精神." See, "Circular Regarding Going a Step Further to Strengthen Safety Inspection Work for Teaching Laboratories at Institutions of Higher Learning" (教育部办公厅关于进一步加强高校教学实验室安全检查工作的通知), *PRC Ministry of Education* (Online), 10 January 2019.

<sup>794</sup> Josh Chin, "Xi Jinping's Leadership Style: Micromanagement that Leaves Underlings Scrambling," *The Wall Street Journal*, 15 December 2021.

<sup>795</sup> Nis Grunberg and Katja Drinhausen, "The Party Leads on Everything: China's Changing Governance in Xi Jinping's New Era," *Mercator Institute of China Studies* (Online), 24 September 2019; Cai Xia, "The Weakness of Xi Jinping: How Hubris and Paranoia Threaten China's Future," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2022.

<sup>796</sup> Richard McGregor, *Xi Jinping: The Backlash*, Penguin Random House Books: Sydney, Australia, 16 July 2019.

<sup>797</sup> See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2019 Training Class on Biosafety Laboratory Management and Techniques for Conducting Experiments" (武汉病毒所举办 2019 年生物安全实验室管理与实验技术培训班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 November 2019.

<sup>798</sup> *Ibid.* The characters for Zhao's name are 赵赤鸿.

<sup>799</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "课程内容涵盖了国家生物安全法律法规及标准, 高等级生物安全实验室管理体系, 实验室生物安全风险评估方法, 菌毒种保藏, 动物实验以及实验室废弃物处理等内容."

<sup>800</sup> Connor Reed, "What it's REALLY like to catch coronavirus: First British victim, 25, describes how 'worst disease he ever had' left him sweating, shivering, and struggling to breathe as his eyes burned and bones ached," *The Daily Mail*, 04 March 2020. Ben Dangerfield, "Briton Struck with Coronavirus in Wuhan Recalls: 'I Couldn't Get Enough Air'," *Reuters*, 11 March 2020.

<sup>801</sup> Connor Reed, "What it's REALLY like to catch coronavirus: First British victim, 25, describes how 'worst disease he ever had' left him sweating, shivering, and struggling to breathe as his eyes burned and bones ached," *The Daily Mail*, 04 March 2020.

<sup>802</sup> Ellena Cruse, "First British person with coronavirus reveals agony of contracting illness," *The Evening Standard*, 05 March 2020; Laura Clements, "Parents of Welsh Student who was First Known Brit to have Covid Unable to go to his Funeral," *Wales Online*, 07 November 2020.

<sup>803</sup> The PLA AMMS authors were Zhou Yusen (周育森), Sun Shihui (孙世惠), He Lei (何雷), and Chen Yuehong. Fang Li, et. al., "Molecular Mechanism for Antibody-Dependent Enhancement of Coronavirus Entry," *Journal of Virology*, 2020 March; 94(5): e02015-19, published online 14 February 2020, submitted on 27 November 2019.

<sup>804</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>805</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>806</sup> "Notice on the Work Situation for the Handling of the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute Incident of Positive Cases for Brucella Antibodies" (兰州兽研所布鲁氏菌抗体阳性时间处置工作情况通报) *Lanzhou Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 15 September 2020. Jessie Yeung and Eric Cheung, "Bacterial Outbreak Infects Thousands after Factory Leak in China," *CNN*, 17 September 2020. Liangping Gao and Ryan Woo, "Over 6,000 people in China's Lanzhou test positive for brucellosis - state media," *Reuters*, 05 November 2020. Liangping Gao and Ryan Woo, "Explainer: How Thousands in China got Infected by Brucellosis in One Single Outbreak," *Reuters*, 05 November 2020.



<sup>807</sup> Lina, S.M.M., Kunasekaran, M.P. and Moa, A., "Brucellosis Outbreak in China, 2019," *Global Biosecurity*, 3(1), 12 May 2021.

<sup>808</sup> "Notice on the Work Situation for the Handling of the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute Incident of Positive Cases for Brucella Antibodies" (兰州兽研所布鲁氏菌抗体阳性时间处置工作情况通报) *Lanzhou Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 15 September 2020. Jessie Yeung and Eric Cheung, "Bacterial Outbreak Infects Thousands after Factory Leak in China," *CNN*, 17 September 2020. David Cyranoski, "Chinese Institutes Investigate Pathogen Outbreaks in Lab Workers," *Nature*, 17 December 2019. Liangping Gao and Ryan Woo, "Explainer: How Thousands in China got Infected by Brucellosis in One Single Outbreak," *Reuters*, 05 November 2020. "Brucella Cases Caused by Contaminated Factory Exhaust: Report," *Xinhua*, 27 December 2019.

<sup>809</sup> For examples of official statements and reporting that do not refer to the brucella incident as a "leak" or "laboratory" associated incident, see "Notice on the Work Situation for the Handling of the Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute Incident of Positive Cases for Brucella Antibodies" (兰州兽研所布鲁氏菌抗体阳性时间处置工作情况通报) *Lanzhou Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 15 September 2020. "Brucella Cases Caused by Contaminated Factory Exhaust: Report," *Xinhua*, 27 December 2019. "337 Personnel who Tested Positive for Brucella in Lanzhou Have Already Received Compensation," (兰州已有 337 名布鲁氏菌抗体阳性人员获得赔偿), *Xinhua News Agency*, 05 November 2020. Ren Mengyan (任梦岩), "Punishments Announced for 2019 'Lanzhou Brucella Incident,' Work Related to the Aftermath Launched in Groups" (2019 年 "兰州布病事件" 处罚结果公布相关善后工作分批开展), *CCTV*, 17 September 2020.

<sup>810</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), p. 16.

<sup>811</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 232.

<sup>812</sup> Russell J. Westergard, "Surviving the Outbreak: Reflections on ConGen Wuhan's Evacuation and Life in Quarantine," *STATE Magazine*, April 2020.

<sup>813</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 14.

<sup>814</sup> Bin Cao, Jianwei Wang, et. al., "Clinical Features of Patients Infected with 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China," *The Lancet*, Volume 395, Issue 10223, P497-506, February 15, 2020, published online on 24 January 2020.

<sup>815</sup> *Ibid.* See Figure 1.

<sup>816</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>817</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>818</sup> For more information on how the CCP controls information, see David Bandurski, "Taming the Flood: How China's Leaders 'Guide' Public Opinion," *ChinaFile*, 20 July 2015; Gary Rawnsley, "Why China's Propagandists Love the Internet," *Foreign Policy*, 21 July 2015; and David Bandurski, "Guidance of Public Opinion," *China Media Project*, 14 April 2020.

<sup>819</sup> For a basic report on "thought work" in the current context, see Nectar Gan, "Chinese People Ordered to Think Like Xi as Communist Party Aims to Tighten Control," *CNN*, 16 July 2021. For an academic discussion of "thought work," particularly what the CCP calls "thought reform," see Timothy Cheek, "Thought Reform," in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, Christian Sorace, et. al., eds, Australian National University Press: Canberra, 2019, pg. 287-292.

<sup>820</sup> "WHO-Convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part," Joint WHO-China Study: 14 January to 10 February 2021, *World Health Organization* (Online), 30 March 2021, p. 119.

<sup>821</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, "Wuhan Laboratories, Bat Research, and Biosafety," Research Gate, April 2021, p. 25.

<sup>822</sup> "WHO-Convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part," Joint WHO-China Study: 14 January to 10 February 2021, *World Health Organization* (Online), 30 March 2021, p. 119.

<sup>823</sup> DRASTIC Research Group, "Wuhan Laboratories, Bat Research, and Biosafety," Research Gate, April 2021, p. 27-29.

<sup>824</sup> Eva Dou and Lily Kuo, "A Scientist Adventurer and China's 'Bat Woman' are Under Scrutiny as Coronavirus Lab-Leak Theory Gets Another Look," *The Washington Post*, 03 June 2021.

<sup>825</sup> The document number was ZB0109-1912-ZCHW1288. See, "Announcement of Sole Source Procurement Order for Air Incinerator Device and Testing Services for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology" (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所采购空气焚烧装置以及测试服务项目拟采用单一来源采购方式公示), *Chinese*

*Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 03 December 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating and archiving this document. <https://archive.ph/Jifqr>

<sup>826</sup> The document number was ZB0109-1912-ZCFW1353. The quoted text is “锅炉房 (含) 至 P4 分汽缸出口之间所属热力系统设施的营运, 维护, 年检等.” See, “Announcement Seeking Inquires for Complete Commissioning of the Operation and Management of the Boiler Room at the Zhengdian Campus of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所郑店园区锅炉房全委托运营管理项目询价公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 16 December 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating and archiving this document. <https://archive.ph/QfGR8#selection-149.0-152.0>

<sup>827</sup> Ibid.

<sup>828</sup> Wen Jun (文俊), “Xiao Juhua Stresses All-Out Support for Construction of Center for Biosafety Mega-Science” (肖菊华强调全力支持建设生物安全大科学中心), *Hebei Daily* reprinted on *Hubei Provincial People's Government* (Online), 07 December 2019.

<sup>829</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “肖菊华考察了武汉国家生物安全实验室 (P4 实验室), 详细了解其建设历程, 研究现状与发展方向等, 就有关支持事项进行现场办公。”

<sup>830</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “她指出, 武汉 P4 实验室地位重大、作用重大, 关乎国家安全、社会稳定和人民健康, 是创建武汉综合性国家科学中心的重要基础, 是湖北生物医药健康产业发展的重要支撑。”

<sup>831</sup> Emphasis added. Rob van Hattum (Director), “Virologists on the Coronavirus Outbreak,” *VPRO Documentary “Backlight” (Tegenlicht) Program*, 27 May 2020, [Note: Quote begins at 1:59], <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DeUBLmNjY>

<sup>832</sup> Denise Grady and Donald G. McNeil Jr., “Debate Persists on Deadly Flu Made Airborne,” *The New York Times*, 26 December 2011; and Martin Enserink, “Flu Researcher Ron Fouchier Loses Legal Fight Over H5N1 Studies,” *Science Magazine*, 25 September 2013; and Jocelyn Kaiser, “Controversial Experiments that Could Make Bird Flu More Risky Poised to Resume,” *Science Magazine*, 08 February 2019.

<sup>833</sup> See, Jane Qiu, “How China’s ‘Bat Woman’ Hunted Down Viruses from SARS to the New Coronavirus,” *Scientific American*, 11 March 2020.

<sup>834</sup> The media outlet is called 科普中国 in Chinese. The documentary was called “旷野青春 | 隐形防线.” It can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovnUyTRMERI>

<sup>835</sup> Eva Dou and Lily Kuo, “A Scientist Adventurer and China’s ‘Bat Woman’ are Under Scrutiny as Coronavirus Lab-Leak Theory Gets Another Look,” *The Washington Post*, 03 June 2021; and Aylin Woodward, “A 2019 Video Shows Scientists from the Wuhan CDC Collecting Samples in Bat Caves — But the Agency Hasn’t Revealed any Findings,” *Business Insider*, 08 June 2021.

<sup>836</sup> “Wilderness Youth: The Invisible Line of Defense” (旷野青春 | 隐形防线), *China Science Communication* (Online), 10 December 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovnUyTRMERI>

<sup>837</sup> Alyin Woodward, “An Unsubstantiated Theory Suggests the Coronavirus Accidentally Leaked from a Chinese Lab — Here are the Facts,” *Business Insider*, 15 April 2020.

<sup>838</sup> Eva Dou and Lily Kuo, “A Scientist Adventurer and China’s ‘Bat Woman’ are Under Scrutiny as Coronavirus Lab-Leak Theory Gets Another Look,” *The Washington Post*, 03 June 2021.

<sup>839</sup> Gao Ding (高丁), Zhang Qiang (章强), Han Kun (韩坤), Qian Qing (钱庆), Cheng Wenbo (程文播), and Men Dong (门冬), “An Integrated System for Use in Biological Protection,” (一种用于生物防护的集成装置), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 11 December 2019, patent authorization date 28 August 2020, Patent Authorization Number: CN 211375358 U.

<sup>840</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “本实用新型通过差压 变送器实时检测气路的压力, 并将检测的信号反馈给控制组件, 控制组件发送指令给电磁阀, 通过电磁阀来关闭气路, 能够实时监控气路的气压, 避免气路异常失效造成的危险。”

<sup>841</sup> For example, “Negative pressure is required if adjacent area is a lower biosafety level or non-laboratory space” at UC San Diego. “Biosafety Level (BSL) Practices Chart,” *University of California at San Diego* (Online), 13 September 2022. Another lab safety course stated for BSL-3 facilities that “the laboratory should be kept at a negative pressure at all times, even if there is a bio safety cabinet failure.” See, “Laboratory Safety: Work Practices for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis,” *Association of Public Health Laboratories* (Online). A PDF can be found here: [https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious\\_disease/tuberculosis/TBCore/Laboratory\\_Safety\\_Work\\_Practices\\_for\\_Mycobacterium\\_tuberculosis-WithNotes.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious_disease/tuberculosis/TBCore/Laboratory_Safety_Work_Practices_for_Mycobacterium_tuberculosis-WithNotes.pdf)



<sup>842</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “目前一般的高效过滤器的接头主要以卡盘接头为主, 要想在生物防护设备中使用, 就需要添加多级连接管固定, 尤其是在运输过程中的稳定性, 多段连接就意味着多段风险, 也同时需要多阶段的检测, 急需一款模块形式的稳定的高效过滤装置... 另外, 当在运输过程中发生意外, 没有有效的监控装置来判断设备是否正常。” Gao Ding (高丁), Zhang Qiang (章强), Han Kun (韩坤), Qian Qing (钱庆), Cheng Wenbo (程文播), and Men Dong (门冬), “An Integrated System for Use in Biological Protection,” (一种用于生物防护的集成装置), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 11 December 2019, patent authorization date 28 August 2020, Patent Authorization Number: CN 211375358 U.

<sup>843</sup> “Competitive Bid on Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology Central Air Conditioning Renovation Project” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所中央空调改造工程竞争性磋商), Chinese Government Procurement Network (中国政府采购网), 16 September 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it. <https://archive.ph/bfoTD>

<sup>844</sup> “Announcement of Sole Source Procurement Order for Air Incinerator Device and Testing Services for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所采购空气焚烧装置以及测试服务项目拟采用单一来源采购方式公示), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 03 December 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating and archiving this document. <https://archive.ph/jifqr>

<sup>845</sup> The quoted text is “结合近期保密违法案例。” See “Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2019 Entry Training for New Employees” (武汉病毒所举办 2019 年新入职工入所培训), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 16 December 2019.

<sup>846</sup> Eva Dou, “Wuhan Lab’s Classified Work Complicates Search for Pandemic’s Origins,” *The Washington Post*, 22 June 2021.

<sup>847</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches Educational Activities for 2019 New Students Matriculating to the Institute” (武汉病毒所开展 2019 级新生入所教育活动), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 05 September 2019.

<sup>848</sup> Ian Birrell, “Top US Scientist Reveals He First Heard about Virus Outbreak in Wuhan Two Weeks before Beijing Warned the World about Covid,” *The Daily Mail*, 04 September 2021.

<sup>849</sup> Ibid.

<sup>850</sup> The Editorial Board of the Washington Post, “As the Pandemic Exploded, A Researcher Saw the Danger. China’s Leader Kept Silent,” *The Washington Post*, 22 April 2022.

<sup>851</sup> Wang Xiaoli (王小姐) and Zhou Dongsheng (周冬生), “Looking toward the International Biosecurity Situation in 2035,” (面向 2035 年的国际生物安全形势), *The Study Times* (学习时报), 20 December 2019.

<sup>852</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “突发生物事件影响范围已经从民众健康扩展为影响国家安全和战略利益。传统生物安全问题与非传统生物安全问题交织, 外来生物威胁与内部监管漏洞风险并存。”

<sup>853</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “发展中国家对生物科技负面作用的管控体系和能力有欠缺, 有明显的内部性威胁, 同时生物科技在许多战略方向存在‘卡脖子’现象, 有隐性的外部性威胁。”

<sup>854</sup> Ibid. The quoted terms are “薄弱环节” and “短板。” Both of these terms will be used by Xi Jinping to describe China’s biosecurity and biosafety conditions in public remarks in February 2020.

<sup>855</sup> Wang Jiaying (王嘉兴), “Before Zhong Nanshan Said a Word, This Wuhan Doctor Gave an Outbreak Warning to Schools in the Vicinity” (在钟南山发话前, 武汉这位医生向附近学校发出疫情警报), *China Youth Daily Freezing Point Weekly* (中国青年报冰点周刊), 28 January 2020. The doctor’s initial warnings were down anonymously, but she gave the journalist permission to disclose her identity. She was Lü Xiaohong (吕小红), the director of the digestive and internal medicine department at the Wuhan Municipal No. 5 Hospital.

<sup>856</sup> Mai He, Li Li, Louis P. Dehner, “China’s Reactions to COVID-19 Outbreaks in Wuhan Before Lockdown: The Impact of Three Weeks Delay,” *SSRN*, preprint, 07 July 2020, pg. 6.

<sup>857</sup> The quoted text is “到目前为止调查未发现明显人传人现象, 未发现医务人员感染。” See “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>858</sup> Yao Yuan, Ma Yujie, Zhou Jialu and Hou Wenkun, “Chinese Doctor Recalls First Encounter with Mysterious Virus,” *Xinhua News Agency*, 16 April 2020.



<sup>859</sup> The quoted text is “儿子来了, 没有症状, 但肺部 CT 发现他的肺也是呈磨玻璃状——病毒性肺炎的表现。” See, “Zhang Jixian: Reporting an Outbreak to the Authorities is a Requirement of my Profession” (张继先: 疫情上报是我的职业要求), *Changjiang Daily* (长江日报), 24 November 2020.

<sup>860</sup> Yao Yuan, Ma Yujie, Zhou Jialu and Hou Wenkun, “Chinese Doctor Recalls First Encounter with Mysterious Virus,” *Xinhua News Agency*, 16 April 2020.

<sup>861</sup> “Zhang Jixian: Reporting an Outbreak to the Authorities is a Requirement of my Profession” (张继先: 疫情上报是我的职业要求), *Changjiang Daily* (长江日报), 24 November 2020.

<sup>862</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>863</sup> Gao Yu, Peng Yanfeng, Yang Rui, Feng Yuding, Ma Danmeng, Flynn Murphy, Han Wei and Timmy Shen, “How Early Signs of the Coronavirus were Spotted, Spread and Throttled in China,” *Caixin Global*, 28 February 2020.

<sup>864</sup> The Editorial Board of the Washington Post, “As the Pandemic Exploded, A Researcher Saw the Danger. China’s Leader Kept Silent,” *The Washington Post*, 22 April 2022.

<sup>865</sup> Gao Yu, et. al., 28 February 2020. The Associated Press also independently confirmed that Vision Medicals had sequenced the genome by December 27. See “China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO,” *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020.

<sup>866</sup> “WHO Statement regarding Cluster of Pneumonia Cases in Wuhan, China,” *World Health Organization* (Online), 09 January 2020.

<sup>867</sup> Gao Yu, Peng Yanfeng, Yang Rui, Feng Yuding, Ma Danmeng, Flynn Murphy, Han Wei and Timmy Shen, “How Early Signs of the Coronavirus were Spotted, Spread and Throttled in China,” *Caixin Global*, 28 February 2020.

<sup>868</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>869</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>870</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>871</sup> Zaheer Allam, “The First 50 days of COVID-19: A Detailed Chronological Timeline and Extensive Review of Literature Documenting the Pandemic” in *Surveying the Covid-19 Pandemic and its Implications*, 2020, Elsevier Public Health Emergency Collection (Online), p 4.

<sup>872</sup> *Ibid.*; Gao Yu, Peng Yanfeng, Yang Rui, Feng Yuding, Ma Danmeng, Flynn Murphy, Han Wei and Timmy Shen, “How Early Signs of the Coronavirus were Spotted, Spread and Throttled in China,” *Caixin Global*, 28 February 2020. For direct acknowledgment that Zhang and his Australian research partners knew they were defying the NHC gag order, see Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 221.

<sup>873</sup> The quoted text is “我市华南海鲜市场陆续出现不明原因肺炎病人。” See “Municipal Health Commission’s Urgent Notice on Reporting on the Critical Care Situation for Pneumonia of Unknown Etiology (市卫生健康委关于报送不明原因肺炎救治情况的紧急通知), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* reposted on *Wikisource* (维基文库), 30 December 2019.

<sup>874</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>875</sup> The quoted text is “我市部分医疗机构陆续出现不明原因肺炎病人。” See “Urgent Notice on Doing a Good Job with Critical Care for Pneumonia of Unknown Etiology” (关于做好不明原因肺炎救治工作的紧急通知), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* reposted on *Wikisource* (维基文库), 30 December 2019.

<sup>876</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “未经授权任何单位, 个人不得擅自对外发布救治信息。”

<sup>877</sup> Jane McMullen, “Covid-19: Five Days that Shaped the Outbreak,” *BBC News*, 26 January 2021.

<sup>878</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 49.

<sup>879</sup> The Investigative Unit of the National Supervision Commission, “Notice Regarding the Investigation of the Situation Involving Dr. Li Wenliang and the Public Response,” (关于群众反映的涉及李文亮医生有关情况调查的通报), *Xinhua News Agency*, 19 March 2020.

<sup>880</sup> *Ibid.*; and “Li Wenliang: Coronavirus Kills Chinese Whistleblower Doctor,” *BBC News*, 07 February 2020; and Chris Buckley, “Chinese Doctor, Silenced After Warning of Outbreak, Dies From Coronavirus,” *New York Times*, 06 February 2020.

<sup>881</sup> Lily Kuo, “Coronavirus: Wuhan Doctor Speaks Out Against Authorities,” *The Guardian*, 11 March 2020.

<sup>882</sup> “Timeline of China Releasing Information on COVID-19 and Advancing International Cooperation,” *Xinhua* reposted on the *National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China*, 06 April 2020.

<sup>883</sup> See “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>884</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “到目前为止调查未发现明显人传人现象, 未发现医务人员感染.”

<sup>885</sup> The PRC has a powerful central government based in Beijing. It is not federalized and does not share its powers with provincial and local authorities. Provincial and local authorities in China are subordinate to the Communist Party and state authorities at the central level, and must seek Beijing’s approval for major decisions, such as responding to an epidemic. For an excellent primer on politics in the PRC, see “Chapter One: The Red Machine” in Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers*, Penguin Group: London, 2010, pg. 1-33.

<sup>886</sup> Mai He, Li Li, Louis P. Dehner, “China’s Reactions to COVID-19 Outbreaks in Wuhan Before Lockdown: The Impact of Three Weeks Delay,” *SSRN*, preprint, 07 July 2020, pg. 7.

<sup>887</sup> See, “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>888</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>889</sup> *Ibid.* The relevant text is “...目前已发现 27 例病例, 其中 7 例病情严重, 其余病例病情稳定可控, 有 2 例病情好转拟于近期出院.”

<sup>890</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “目前对病原的检测及感染原因的调查正在进行中.”

<sup>891</sup> *Ibid.* The relevant text is “近期部分医疗机构发现接诊的多例肺炎病例与华南海鲜城有关联.”

<sup>892</sup> Jon Cohen, “Wuhan Seafood Market May Not be Source of Novel Virus Spreading Globally,” *Science Magazine*, 26 January 2020; and Teddy Ng, “No Link with Seafood Market in First Case of China Coronavirus, Chinese Scientists Revealed,” *South China Morning Post*, 25 January 2020.

<sup>893</sup> Bin Cao, et al., “Clinical Features of Patients Infected with 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China,” *The Lancet*, Volume 395, Issue 10223, 24 January 2020 (published online) and 15 February 2020 (in print), p.497.

<sup>894</sup> James T. Areddy, “China Rules Out Animal Market and Lab as Coronavirus Origin,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 26 May 2020.

<sup>895</sup> Lisa Schnirring, “Report: Thailand’s Coronavirus Patient Didn’t Visit Outbreak Market,” *Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota* (Online), 14 January 2020.

<sup>896</sup> For examples, see “China detects large quantity of novel coronavirus at Wuhan seafood market,” *XinhuaNet*, 27 January 2020; Jason Beaubien, “Why They’re Called ‘Wet Markets’ — And What Health Risks They Might Pose,” *National Public Radio*, 31 January 2020; Aylin Woodward, “Both the New Coronavirus and SARS Outbreaks Likely Started in Chinese ‘Wet Markets.’ Historic Photos Show What the Markets Looked Like,” *Business Insider*, 26 February 2020; and Dina Fine Maron, “‘Wet Markets’ Likely Launched the Coronavirus. Here’s What You Need to Know,” *National Geographic*, 15 April 2020.

<sup>897</sup> See, Michael Worobey, “Dissecting the Early COVID-19 Cases in Wuhan,” *Science Magazine*, 18 November 2021, Volume 374, Issue 6572, pp. 1202-1204.

<sup>898</sup> James T. Areddy, “China Rules Out Animal Market and Lab as Coronavirus Origin,” *Wall Street Journal*, 26 May 2020.

<sup>899</sup> The quoted text is “...市卫健委接到报告后, 立即在全市医疗卫生机构开展与华南海鲜城有关联的病例搜索和回顾性调查...” See “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>900</sup> The quoted text is “肖菊华强调, 要积极争取国家卫健委, 中科院指导和支持, 省, 市, 区密切配合.” See, Wen Jun (文俊), “Xiao Juhua Stresses All-Out Support for Construction of Center for Biosafety Mega-Science” (肖菊华强调全力支持建设生物安全大科学中心), *Hebei Daily* reprinted on the *Hubei Provincial People’s Government* (Online), 07 December 2019.

<sup>901</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “目前, 所有病例均已隔离治疗, 密切接触者的追踪调查和医学观察正在进行中, 对华南海鲜城的卫生学调查和环境卫生处置正在进行中.” See, “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), the *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>902</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “到目前为止调查未发现明显人传人现象, 未发现医务人员感染.”

<sup>903</sup> Bin Cao, Jianwei Wang, et. al., “Clinical Features of Patients Infected with 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China,” *The Lancet*, Volume 395, Issue 10223, P497-506, February 15, 2020, published online on 24 January 2020.

<sup>904</sup> The quoted text is “该病可防可控, 预防上保持室内空气流通, 避免到封闭, 空气不流通的公众场合和人多集中地方, 外出可佩戴口罩.” See, “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), the *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>905</sup> “China Didn’t Warn Public of Likely Pandemic for 6 Key Days,” *The Associated Press*, 15 April 2020.

<sup>906</sup> The quoted text is “目前对病原的检测及感染原因的调查正在进行中.” See, “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>907</sup> Ibid. The relevant text is “引起病毒性肺炎的病毒以流行性感冒病毒为常见, 其他为副流感病毒, 巨细胞病毒, 腺病毒, 鼻病毒, 冠状病毒等.”

<sup>908</sup> Du Juan, “Wuhan Wet Market Closes Amid Pneumonia Outbreak,” *The China Daily*, 01 January 2020.

<sup>909</sup> Ibid. See also, Xiao Xiao, et. al., “Animal Sales from Wuhan Wet Markets Immediately Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Scientific Reports*, 11, Article number: 11898 (2021), published online on 07 June 2021.

<sup>910</sup> “Wuhan’s ‘Wet Markets’ are Back in Business,” *ABC News*, 17 April 2020.

<sup>911</sup> For example, see “Chinese Doctor who Diagnosed Early Coronavirus Cases in Wuhan Says Local Officials Covered up the Scale of the Initial Outbreak,” *The Daily Mail*, 27 July 2020.

<sup>912</sup> The quoted text is “8 名散布谣言者, 已被依法查处.” See, “Eight Pneumonia Epidemic Rumormongers in Wuhan Investigated and Dealt With” (武汉 8 名散布肺炎疫情谣言者被查处), *People’s Daily*, 02 January 2020.

<sup>913</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “在网上发布, 转发不实信息, 造成不良社会影响.”

<sup>914</sup> “Eight Pneumonia Epidemic Rumormongers in Wuhan Investigated and Dealt With” (武汉 8 名散布肺炎疫情谣言者被查处), *The People’s Daily*, 02 January 2020.

<sup>915</sup> “CCTV: Eight Rumormongers Investigated and Dealt With” (CCTV: 8 名散布谣言者被查处), *China Central Television*, 02 January 2020, reposted on *China Digital Times*, 29 January 2020.

<sup>916</sup> The Investigative Unit of the National Supervision Commission, “Notice Regarding the Investigation of the Situation Involving Dr. Li Wenliang and the Public Response,” (关于群众反映的涉及李文亮医生有关情况调查的通报), *Xinhua News Agency*, 19 March 2020. Here is the official account of what happened to Li: “2020 年 1 月 3 日 13 时 30 分左右, 武汉市公安局武昌分局中南路派出所与李文亮医生联系后, 李文亮医生在同事陪同下来到该派出所。派出所副所长杨某安排负责内勤的民警胡某与李文亮医生谈话。经谈话核实后, 谈话人员现场制作了笔录。李文亮医生表示, 在微信群中发有关 SARS 的信息是不对的, 以后会注意的, 谈话人员对李文亮医生制作了训诫书。李文亮医生亦持有 1 份训诫书, 于 14 时 30 分许离开派出所。”

<sup>917</sup> Jane McMullen, “Covid-19: Five Days that Shaped the Outbreak,” *BBC News*, 26 January 2021; Chris Buckley, “Chinese Doctor, Silenced After Warning of Outbreak, Dies From Coronavirus,” *New York Times*, 06 February 2020.

<sup>918</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 50.

<sup>919</sup> Jing-Bao Nie and Carl Elliott, “Humiliating Whistle-Blowers: Li Wenliang, the Response to Covid-19, and the Call for a Decent Society,” *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 25 Aug 2020, pg. 1–5.

<sup>920</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 51.

<sup>921</sup> Lily Kuo, “‘They’re Chasing Me’: the Journalist who wouldn’t Stay Quiet on Covid-19,” *the Guardian*, 01 March 2020; Yew Lun Tian, “Chinese Citizen Journalist Resurfaces after Going Missing in Wuhan,” *Reuters*, 23 April 2020.

<sup>922</sup> Nectar Gan and Natalie Thomas, “Chen Qiushi Spoke Out about the Wuhan Virus. Now his Family and Friends Fear he’s been Silenced,” *CNN*, 09 February 2020; and Keith Zhai, “Chinese Citizen Journalist Who Documented Covid-19 in Wuhan Resurfaces After 600 Days,” *Wall Street Journal*, 01 October 2021.

<sup>923</sup> “Coronavirus: Why have two reporters in Wuhan disappeared?,” *BBC News*, 14 February 2020; and “Concerns Grow For ‘Disappeared’ Wuhan Citizen Journalist,” *Radio Free Asia*, 09 March 2021.

<sup>924</sup> Keir Simmons, Jennifer Jett, Amy Perrette and Elizabeth Kuhr, “A Reporter Risked Her Life to Show the World Covid in Wuhan. Now She may not Survive Jail,” *NBC News*, 18 December 2021; and Amy Chang Chien and Austin



Ramzy, "Chinese Citizen Who Documented Wuhan Outbreak Falls Ill in Prison Hunger Strike," *New York Times*, 08 October 2021.

<sup>925</sup> Gao Yu, Peng Yanfeng, Yang Rui, Feng Yuding, Ma Danmeng, Flynn Murphy, Han Wei and Timmy Shen, "How Early Signs of the Coronavirus were Spotted, Spread and Throttled in China," *Caixin Global*, 28 February 2020.

<sup>926</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021, pg. 357-358.

<sup>927</sup> A "red-letterhead document" refers to an official directive or policy document issued by a PRC central government or communist party office. The relevant agency that produced the document is printed prominently in red ink at the top. For more information, see George C. Chen and Matthias Stepan, "Ruling the Country by Red Letterhead Documents?," *University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute*, 19 September 2017.

<sup>928</sup> The Chinese title of the directive was "关于在重大突发传染病防控工作中加强生物样本资源及相关科研活动管理工作的通知." See, Lin Tingyao (林庭瑶) and Ni Huairen (倪懷仁), "Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic" (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020. Note The Storm Media is based in Taiwan, not China.

<sup>929</sup> *Ibid.* The Associated Press also reviewed the official directive in question. See, "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020. The PRC authorities also eventually admitted, at least in part, to having ordered labs to destroy early samples. See, Zhuang Pinghui, "China Confirms Unauthorized Labs Were Told to Destroy Early Coronavirus Samples," *The South China Morning Post*, 15 May 2020.

<sup>930</sup> Gao Yu, Peng Yanfeng, Yang Rui, Feng Yuding, Ma Danmeng, Flynn Murphy, Han Wei and Timmy Shen, "How Early Signs of the Coronavirus were Spotted, Spread and Throttled in China," *Caixin Global*, 28 February 2020.

<sup>931</sup> Jon Cohen, "Wuhan Coronavirus Hunter Shi Zhengli Speaks Out" and "Reply to Science Magazine," *Science Magazine*, 31 July 2020, Volume 369, Issue 6503, pg. 487-488.

<sup>932</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 219.

<sup>933</sup> Katherine Eban, "The Lab Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins," *Vanity Fair*, 03 June 2021.

<sup>934</sup> This refers to a "seamless" ligation method, that is a viral genome editing technique, which leaves no trace of artificial ligation as the restriction sites do not remain in the final sequence after ligation. It was developed by Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. See R.S. Baric and A.C. Sims, "Development of Mouse Hepatitis Virus and SARS CoV Infectious cDNA Constructs," *Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology* (2005), 287: 229-252.

<sup>935</sup> For a helpful review of Baric's work with the WIV, see Yuri Deigin, "Lab-Made? SARS-CoV-2 Genealogy Through the Lens of Gain-of-Function Research," *Medium.com*, 22 April 2020.

<sup>936</sup> Jon Cohen, "Chinese Researchers Reveal Draft Genome of Virus Implicated in Wuhan Pneumonia Outbreak," *Science Magazine*, 11 January 2020.

<sup>937</sup> "COVID-19 – China," *World Health Organization* (Online), 05 January 2020.

<sup>938</sup> "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020.

<sup>939</sup> "COVID-19 – China," *World Health Organization* (Online), 05 January 2020.

<sup>940</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>941</sup> "Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Safety, Record-Keeping Work Conference" (武汉病毒所召开安全, 档案工作会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 07 January 2020.

<sup>942</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is "剖析了研究所在安全, 档案管理过程中存在的困难和问题, 提出解决措施, 并对 2020 年相关工作进行部署安排."

<sup>943</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is "确保安全无事故" and "做好全年的安全, 档案工作至关重要."

<sup>944</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is "要充分认识安全工作的艰巨性, 复杂性, 突发性, 长期性, 进一步增强安全意识, 责任意识, 危机意识, 任何时候都不能对安全工作掉以轻心, 必须进一步强化安全责任落实, 强化安全隐患整改, 强化危化品使用管理, 兢兢业业, 尽职尽责做好安全的各项工作."

<sup>945</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "严格执行国家, 中科院及研究所相关规定, 按时保质保量完成部门档案收集, 整理, 及移交工作."

<sup>946</sup> The original post has been removed from the website of the Wuhan Municipal People's Government. For a secondary source, see Jim Geraghty, "The Comprehensive Timeline of China's COVID-19 Lies," *National Review*, 23 March 2020.

<sup>947</sup> Ibid. The original post has been removed from the website of the Wuhan Municipal People's Government.

<sup>948</sup> Emphasis added. Sanjay Gupta, "Autopsy of a Pandemic: 6 Doctors at the Center of the US Covid-19 Response," *CNN*, 26 March 2021.

<sup>949</sup> Ibid.

<sup>950</sup> "A Conversation with Robert Redfield," *Council on Foreign Relations* (Online), 10 December 2020.

<sup>951</sup> Lin Tingyao (林庭瑶) and Ni Huairan (倪懷仁), "Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic" (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020.

<sup>952</sup> The quoted text is "1月7日, 我主持召开中央政治局常委会会议时, 就对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情防控工作提出了要求." See "Xi Jinping: Speech at the Meeting of the Politburo Standing Committee of the CCP Central Committee to Study the Work to Respond to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic" (习近平: 在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情防控工作时的讲话), *Seeking Truth* (求是) reposted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 15 February 2020.

<sup>953</sup> "Xi Jinping Attends Summary Meeting on the Educational Theme of 'Never Forget Our Original Aspiration and Remember Our Founding Mission' and Delivers Important Speech" (习近平出席 '不忘初心, 牢记使命' 主题教育总结大会并发表重要讲话), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 08 January 2020.

<sup>954</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "...坚决清除一切弱化党的先进性, 损害党的纯洁性的因素, 坚决割除一切滋生在党的肌体上的毒瘤..."

<sup>955</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "...坚决防范一切违背初心和使命, 动摇党的根基的危险..."

<sup>956</sup> The phrase "preliminary assessment," which is used throughout the report, is 初步判定. One might also translate it as an "initial determination." See, "Expert Claims Etiological Identification Study Makes Preliminary Progress in Linking Novel Coronavirus to Wuhan Outbreak of Pneumonia of Unknown Origin," (专家称系新型冠状病毒 武汉不明原因的病毒性肺炎疫情病原学鉴定取得初步进展) *Xinhua News Agency*, 09 January 2020. For an English source, see Natasha Khan, "New Virus Discovered by Chinese Scientists Investigating Pneumonia Outbreak," *Wall Street Journal*, 08 January 2020.

<sup>957</sup> Xu Jianguo is actually the director of the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Institute of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, but *Xinhua* curiously did not list that affiliation in its description of him. See, "Expert Claims Etiological Identification Study Makes Preliminary Progress in Linking Novel Coronavirus to Wuhan Outbreak of Pneumonia of Unknown Origin," (专家称系新型冠状病毒 武汉不明原因的病毒性肺炎疫情病原学鉴定取得初步进展) *Xinhua News Agency*, 09 January 2020.

<sup>958</sup> In addition to his CCDCP affiliation described above, Xu is also the director of the state-run Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology at the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medical Science, but *Xinhua* only referred to him as a "Chinese Academy of Engineering academician" and the head of the assessment team advising the government. For his full bio, see "Xu Jianguo/List of Academicians/Corps of Academicians" (徐建国/院士名单/院士队伍), *Chinese Academy of Engineering* (Online), last accessed on 15 April 2022.

<sup>959</sup> "Expert Claims Etiological Identification Study Makes Preliminary Progress in Linking Novel Coronavirus to Wuhan Outbreak of Pneumonia of Unknown Origin," (专家称系新型冠状病毒 武汉不明原因的病毒性肺炎疫情病原学鉴定取得初步进展) *Xinhua News Agency*, 9 January 2020.

<sup>960</sup> Gao Yu, et. al., 28 February 2020. This information was independently verified by the Associated Press. See, "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020.

<sup>961</sup> Jane Qiu, "How China's 'Bat Woman' Hunted Down Viruses from SARS to the New Coronavirus," *Scientific American*, 11 March 2020.

<sup>962</sup> The quoted text is "研究所于2020年1月2日确定了新型冠状病毒(以下称2019新型冠状病毒)全基因组序列, 于1月5日成功分离到了病毒毒株." See, "Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches All-Out Research Attack Against Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia" (武汉病毒所全力开展新型冠状病毒肺炎科研攻关), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 29 January 2020.

<sup>963</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 51.

<sup>964</sup> Wenjie Tan, Xiang Zhao, Xuejun Ma, Wenling Wang, Peihua Niu, Wenbo Xu, George F. Gao, Guizhen Wu, "Notes from the Field: A Novel Coronavirus Genome Identified in a Cluster of Pneumonia Cases — Wuhan, China 2019–2020," *China CDC Weekly*, 2020, 2(4): 61–62.

<sup>965</sup> China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020; and Charlie Campbell, "Exclusive: The Chinese Scientist Who Sequenced the First COVID-19 Genome Speaks Out About the Controversies Surrounding His Work," *Time Magazine*, 24 August 2020.

<sup>966</sup> Natasha Khan, "New Virus Discovered by Chinese Scientists Investigating Pneumonia Outbreak," *The Wall Street Journal*, 08 January 2020.

<sup>967</sup> "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020; and Gao Yu, Peng Yanfeng, Yang Rui, Feng Yuding, Ma Danmeng, Flynn Murphy, Han Wei and Timmy Shen, "How Early Signs of the Coronavirus were Spotted, Spread and Throttled in China," *Caixin Global*, 28 February 2020.

<sup>968</sup> The quoted text is "引起此次疫情的新型冠状病毒不同于已发现的人类冠状病毒。" See "Expert Claims Etiological Identification Study Makes Preliminary Progress in Linking Novel Coronavirus to Wuhan Outbreak of Pneumonia of Unknown Origin," (专家称系新型冠状病毒 武汉不明原因的病毒性肺炎疫情病原学鉴定取得初步进展) *Xinhua News Agency*, 9 January 2020.

<sup>969</sup> Emphasis added. Dennis Normile, "Mystery Virus Found in Wuhan Resembles Bat Viruses but not SARS, Chinese Scientist Says," *Science Magazine*, 10 January 2020.

<sup>970</sup> To be precise, the complete genome sequence similarities between SARS-CoV-1 and SARS-CoV-2 are  $79.4 \pm 0.17\%$ . See, Zigui Chen, Siaw S. Bloom, Maggie H. Wang, Renee W.Y. Chan, and Paul K.S. Chan, "Genomic and Evolutionary Comparison between SARS-CoV-2 and Other Human Coronaviruses," *Journal of Virological Methods*, 2021 March; 289: 114032. Published online on 05 December 2020.

<sup>971</sup> Charlie Campbell, "Exclusive: The Chinese Scientist Who Sequenced the First COVID-19 Genome Speaks Out About the Controversies Surrounding His Work," *Time Magazine*, 24 August 2020.

<sup>972</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>973</sup> Gao Yu, Peng Yanfeng, Yang Rui, Feng Yuding, Ma Danmeng, Flynn Murphy, Han Wei and Timmy Shen, "How Early Signs of the Coronavirus were Spotted, Spread and Throttled in China," *Caixin Global*, 28 February 2020.

<sup>974</sup> "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020.

<sup>975</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 56.

<sup>976</sup> Charlie Campbell, "Exclusive: The Chinese Scientist Who Sequenced the First COVID-19 Genome Speaks Out About the Controversies Surrounding His Work," *Time Magazine*, 24 August 2020.

<sup>977</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 57.

<sup>978</sup> *Ibid.* Zhang and Holmes knew they were violating the NHC gag order of January 3. See, Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 221.

<sup>979</sup> Charlie Campbell, "Exclusive: The Chinese Scientist Who Sequenced the First COVID-19 Genome Speaks Out About the Controversies Surrounding His Work," *Time Magazine*, 24 August 2020.

<sup>980</sup> For an analysis of the meaning of "rectification" in the CCP parlance, see Andrew Mertha, "Rectification," in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, Christian Sorace, et. al., eds., Australian National University Press: Canberra, 2019, pg. 207–214.

<sup>981</sup> Zhuang Pinghui, "Chinese Laboratory that First Shared Coronavirus Genome with World Ordered to Close for 'Rectification', Hindering its Covid-19 Research," *South China Morning Post*, 28 February 2020.

<sup>982</sup> Daniel R. Lucey, "Comments on Key Documents from the Early Weeks of SARS-CoV-2," *Infectious Diseases Society of America* (Online), 24 August 2021.

<sup>983</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>984</sup> The original post has been removed from the website of the Wuhan Municipal People's Government. For a secondary source, see Jim Geraghty, "The Comprehensive Timeline of China's COVID-19 Lies," *National Review*, 23 March 2020.

<sup>985</sup> "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020.

<sup>986</sup> *Ibid.*



<sup>987</sup> Lin Tingyao (林庭瑤) and Ni Huairan (倪懷仁), "Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic" (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020.

<sup>988</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "有意不對繼續攀升的新冠疑似病人進行流調, 確診安排, 也未部署任何隔離措施."

<sup>989</sup> "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020.

<sup>990</sup> The quoted text is "我們醫院門診擠滿大量住不進院的疑似病患, 有病人下跪哀求醫生收治他, 有的重症患者連爬上檯子拍 CT 的力氣都沒有, 顫顫巍巍的。" See, Lin Tingyao (林庭瑤) and Ni Huairan (倪懷仁), "Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic" (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020.

<sup>991</sup> Jane Parry, "China Coronavirus: Cases Surge as Official Admits Human to Human Transmission," *The BJM*, 2020, 368: m236, published online on 20 January 2020.

<sup>992</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>993</sup> Sui-Lee Wee, "Japan and Thailand Confirm New Cases of Chinese Coronavirus," *The New York Times*, 15 January 2020.

<sup>994</sup> Jane Parry, "China Coronavirus: Cases Surge as Official Admits Human to Human Transmission," *The BJM*, 2020, 368: m236, published online on 20 January 2020.

<sup>995</sup> "China Didn't Warn Public of Likely Pandemic for 6 Key Days," *The Associated Press*, 15 April 2020.

<sup>996</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>997</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>998</sup> The original post has been removed from the website of the Wuhan Municipal People's Government. For a secondary source, see Jim Geraghty, "The Comprehensive Timeline of China's COVID-19 Lies," *National Review*, 23 March 2020.

<sup>999</sup> Lin Tingyao (林庭瑤) and Ni Huairan (倪懷仁), "Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic" (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020.

<sup>1000</sup> "China Didn't Warn Public of Likely Pandemic for 6 Key Days," *The Associated Press*, 15 April 2020.

<sup>1001</sup> See, Xi Jinping (习近平), "Xi Jinping: Remarks to the Central Committee's Politburo Standing Committee Meeting on Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic," (习近平: 在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情工作时的讲话), *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1002</sup> "China Didn't Warn Public of Likely Pandemic for 6 Key Days," *The Associated Press*, 15 April 2020.

<sup>1003</sup> For full details of the changing case definition, see Table S1 in Tim K. Tsang, et. al., "Effect of Changing Case Definitions for COVID-19 on the Epidemic Curve and Transmission Parameters in Mainland China: a Modelling Study," *The Lancet Public Health*, Volume 5, Issue 5, E289-E296, 01 MAY 2020, published online 21 April 2020.

<sup>1004</sup> The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission reported using "nucleic acid testing," which like refers to PCR, at least as early as January 10, 2020. See Daniel R. Lucey, "Comments on Key Documents from the Early Weeks of SARS-CoV-2," *Infectious Diseases Society of America* (Online), 24 August 2021. A European team had also developed a PCR test by January 13. See Victor Corman, et. al., "Diagnostic Detection of Wuhan Coronavirus 2019 by Real-Time RT-PCR," *World Health Organization* (Online), 13 January 2020.

<sup>1005</sup> Tim K. Tsang, et. al., "Effect of Changing Case Definitions for COVID-19 on the Epidemic Curve and Transmission Parameters in Mainland China: a Modelling Study," *The Lancet Public Health*, Volume 5, Issue 5, E289-E296, 01 MAY 2020, published online 21 April 2020.

<sup>1006</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1007</sup> The companies were GeneoDx Biotech, Huirui Biotechnology, and BioGerm Medical Technology. See Dake Kang, "China Testing Blunders Stemmed from Secret Deals with Firms," *The Associated Press*, 03 December 2020.

<sup>1008</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1009</sup> Li Zhang, et. al., "Epidemiological and Clinical Characteristics of 99 Cases of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia in Wuhan, China: a Descriptive Study," *The Lancet*, Volume 395, Issue 10223, P507-513, 15 February 2020, published online on 30 January 2020.

<sup>1010</sup> Dake Kang, "China Testing Blunders Stemmed from Secret Deals with Firms," *The Associated Press*, 03 December 2020.

<sup>1011</sup> Sui-Lee Wee, "Japan and Thailand Confirm New Cases of Chinese Coronavirus," *The New York Times*, 15 January 2020.

<sup>1012</sup> The original post has been removed from the website of the Wuhan Municipal People's Government. For a secondary source, see Jim Geraghty, "The Comprehensive Timeline of China's COVID-19 Lies," *National Review*, 23 March 2020.

<sup>1013</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1014</sup> See, Zhuang Pinghui, Alice Yan, and Zoe Low, "China coronavirus: Beijing breaks its silence, but only to 'deny rumours'," *South China Morning Post*, 19 January 2020. Note that we know the claim that no cases could be found in hospitals outside of Wuhan was untrue because there were major cities, such as Guangzhou, that had documented cases by January 18. See, for example, the following study of Guangzhou hospitals that identified cases starting in January 15. Moran Dong, et. al., "Hospitalization Costs of COVID-19 Cases and Their Associated Factors in Guangdong, China: A Cross-Sectional Study," *Frontiers in Medicine*, 11 June 2021.

<sup>1015</sup> "New Coronavirus 'Preventable and Controllable', China Says," *BBC News*, 19 January 2020.

<sup>1016</sup> Yanan Wang and Ken Moritsugu, "Xi Jinping Warns That China's Coronavirus Outbreak Must Be Taken Seriously," *The Diplomat*, 21 January 2020.

<sup>1017</sup> Winni Zhou, "'Enemy of Mankind': Coronavirus Deaths Top SARS as China Returns to Work," *Reuters*, 08 February 2020.

<sup>1018</sup> James Kynge, "Wuhan Virus Points to Tough Year of the Rat for Xi Jinping," *Financial Times*, 23 January 2020; "40,000 Families Recount the Neighborly Feeling of Large Banquet in Wuhan Community" (武汉社区办万家宴 4 万户家庭共叙邻里情), *Guancha Syndicate* (观察者), 21 January 2020.

<sup>1019</sup> Ding Jie, He Jingwei, and Mo Yelin, "Weeks After Massive Local Party, Wuhan Neighborhood Remain in the Dark," *Caixin Global*, 11 February 2020.

<sup>1020</sup> The quoted text is "1 月 20 日, 我专门就疫情防控工作作出批示, 指出必须高度重视疫情, 全力做好防控工作, 要求各级党委和政府及有关部门把人民群众生命安全和身体健康放在第一位, 采取切实有效措施, 坚决遏制疫情蔓延势头." See, Xi Jinping (习近平), "Xi Jinping: Remarks to the Central Committee's Politburo Standing Committee Meeting on Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic" (习近平: 在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情工作时的讲话), *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1021</sup> "Novel Coronavirus Infectious Pneumonia Epidemic: Person-to-Person Transmission and Infection of Medical Personnel has Already Been Confirmed" (新型冠状病毒感染肺炎疫情: 已确认存在人传人和医务人员感染), *Xinhua News Agency*, 20 January 2020; Javier C. Hernandez and Austin Ramzy, "China Confirms New Coronavirus Spreads From Humans to Humans," *New York Times*, 20 January 2020.

<sup>1022</sup> Liu Jie, Wang Pan, and Xiao Sisi, "Profile: Zhong Nanshan: outspoken doctor awarded China's top honor," *XinhuaNet*, 08 September 2020.

<sup>1023</sup> Emphasis added. The quote is taken from this sentence: "目前疫情在武汉出现局部暴发的情况." "Novel Coronavirus Infectious Pneumonia Epidemic: Person-to-Person Transmission and Infection of Medical Personnel has Already Been Confirmed" (新型冠状病毒感染肺炎疫情: 已确认存在人传人和医务人员感染), *Xinhua News Agency*, 20 January 2020.

<sup>1024</sup> Ibid. The quote is "我不相信它会像 17 年前非典造成的社会影响以及经济的损害."

<sup>1025</sup> "China Delayed Releasing Coronavirus Info, Frustrating WHO," *The Associated Press*, 02 June 2020.

<sup>1026</sup> The relevant statement is "从感染人群的地理分布看, 与武汉海鲜市场关系很密切." "Novel Coronavirus Infectious Pneumonia Epidemic: Person-to-Person Transmission and Infection of Medical Personnel has Already Been Confirmed" (新型冠状病毒感染肺炎疫情: 已确认存在人传人和医务人员感染), *Xinhua News Agency*, 20 January 2020.

<sup>1027</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 14.

<sup>1028</sup> Qun Li, et. al., "Early Transmission Dynamics in Wuhan, China, of Novel Coronavirus-Infected Pneumonia," *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 2020, 382:1199-1207, print version published on 26 March 2020, online version published on 29 January 2020.

<sup>1029</sup> The original post has been removed from the website of the Wuhan Municipal People's Government. For a secondary source, see Jim Geraghty, "The Comprehensive Timeline of China's COVID-19 Lies," *National Review*, 23 March 2020.

<sup>1030</sup> Zheng-li Shi, et al., "A Pneumonia Outbreak Associated with a New Coronavirus of Probable Bat Origin," *Nature*, Volume 579, pages 270–273 (2020), received 20 January 2020, accepted 29 January 2020, published online on 03 February 2020.

<sup>1031</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1032</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added to the word "then" to highlight how the word choice suggests that the WIV's work on RaTG13 was subsequent to its sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 when, as we will see, RaTG13 was simply another name for BtCoV/4991, which they collected in 2013.

<sup>1033</sup> The missing citation immediately caught the eye of one science writer. See, Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 27–28.

<sup>1034</sup> Zheng-li Shi, et al., "A Pneumonia Outbreak Associated with a New Coronavirus of Probable Bat Origin," *Nature*, Volume 579, pages 270–273 (2020), received 20 January 2020, accepted 29 January 2020, published online on 03 February 2020.

<sup>1035</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 27–29, 33.

<sup>1036</sup> Ibid, pg. 32.

<sup>1037</sup> "Seven Year Coronavirus Trail From Bat Cave via Wuhan Lab," *The Sunday Times*, 04 July 2020.

<sup>1038</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1039</sup> Ed Browne, "Peter Daszak, Who Sought U.S. Funds for Wuhan Lab and Aided Cover-up, Faces Calls to Quit," *Newsweek*, 06 October 2021.

<sup>1040</sup> "Bats, Snakes or Pangolins? Inside the Hunt for the Animal Behind the Coronavirus Outbreak," *Wired UK*, 16 February 2020.

<sup>1041</sup> Jennifer Khan, "How Scientists Could Stop the Next Pandemic Before it Starts," *New York Times Magazine*, 21 April 2020.

<sup>1042</sup> "Seven Year Coronavirus Trail From Bat Cave via Wuhan Lab," *The Sunday Times*, 04 July 2020.

<sup>1043</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1044</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 32.

<sup>1045</sup> "Reply to Science Magazine," *Science Magazine*, 31 July 2020, Volume 369, Issue 6503, pg. 7.

<sup>1046</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 28–31. They are Dr. Rossana Segreto of the University of Innsbruck and Prasenjit Ray, a science teacher in India.

<sup>1047</sup> Ibid, pg. 33.

<sup>1048</sup> "Mission Summary: WHO Field Visit to Wuhan, China 20–21 January 2020," *The World Health Organization*, 22 January 2020.

<sup>1049</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1050</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1051</sup> The quote was extracted from the following text: "1月22日, 鉴于疫情迅速蔓延, 防控工作面临严峻挑战, 我明确要求湖北省对人员外流实施全面严格管控." See, "Xi Jinping, "Speech at the Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee to Study the Response to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic," (在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情工作时的讲话), *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1052</sup> "Timeline: China's COVID-19 Outbreak and Lockdown of Wuhan," *The Associated Press*, 22 January 2021.

<sup>1053</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1054</sup> "General Office of the National Health Commission Circular on the Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for the Novel Coronavirus (Second Edition)" (国家卫生健康委办公厅关于印发新型冠状病毒实验室生物安全指南 (第二版)的通知), *National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China*, NHC 2020 Document No. 70, 23 January 2020.

<sup>1055</sup> The quoted text is "为保障新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎防控工作期间实验室生物安全, 国家卫生健康委组织制定了新型冠状病毒实验室生物安全指南, 指导各地规范开展新型冠状病毒相关实验活动." See, "Interpreting the Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for the Novel Coronavirus (Second Edition)" (解读 新型冠状病毒实验室生物安全指南, 第二版), *National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 23 January 2020.



<sup>1056</sup> The quoted text is “病毒培养: 指病毒的分离, 培养, 滴定, 中和试验, 活病毒及其蛋白纯化, 病毒冻干以及产生活病毒的重组实验等操作。上述操作应当在生物安全三级实验室内进行。使用病毒培养物提取核酸, 裂解剂或灭活剂的加入必须与病毒培养等同等级别的实验室和防护条件下进行...实验室开展相关活动前, 应当报经国家卫生健康委批准, 取得开展相应活动的资质。” “General Office of the National Health Commission Circular on the Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for the Novel Coronavirus (Second Edition)” (国家卫生健康委办公厅关于印发新型冠状病毒实验室生物安全指南 (第二版) 的通知), *National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China* (Online), NHC 2020 Document No. 70, 23 January 2020.

<sup>1057</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “活病毒感染动物、感染动物取样、感染性样本处理和检测、感染动物特殊检查、感染动物排泄物处理等实验操作。”

<sup>1058</sup> Ibid. The Chinese text which we paraphrased is: “(三) 未经培养的感染性材料的操作: 指未经培养的感染性材料在采用可靠的方法灭活前进行的病毒抗原检测, 血清学检测, 核酸提取, 生化分析, 以及临床样本的灭活等操作, 应当在生物安全二级实验室进行, 同时采用生物安全三级实验室的个人防护... 分子克隆等不含致病性活病毒的其他操作, 可以在生物安全一级实验室进行。”

<sup>1059</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “新型冠状病毒毒株和相关样本应当由专人管理, 准确记录毒株和样本的来源, 种类, 数量, 编号登记, 采取有效措施确保毒株和样本的安全, 严防发生误用, 恶意使用, 被盗, 被抢, 丢失, 泄露等事件。”

<sup>1060</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “实验室生物安全操作失误或意外的处理。”

<sup>1061</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “新型冠状病毒毒株或其他潜在感染性材料污染生物安全柜的操作台造成局限污染: 使用有效氯含量为 0.55% 消毒液, 消毒液需要现用现配, 24 小时内使用。”

<sup>1062</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “清理污染物严格遵循活病毒生物安全操作要求, 采用压力蒸汽灭菌处理, 并进行实验室换气等, 防止次生危害。”

<sup>1063</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “含病毒培养器皿碎裂或倾覆造成实验室污染: 保持实验室空间密闭, 避免污染物扩散, 使用 0.55% 有效氯消毒液的毛巾覆盖污染区。必要时(大量溢撒时)可用过氧乙酸加热熏蒸实验室, 剂量为 2g/m<sup>3</sup>, 熏蒸过夜; 或 20g/L 过氧乙酸消毒液用气溶胶喷雾器喷雾, 用量 8ml/m<sup>3</sup>, 作用 1~2 小时; 必要时或用高锰酸钾-甲醛熏蒸: 高锰酸钾 8g/m<sup>3</sup>, 放入耐热耐腐蚀容器 (陶罐或玻璃容器), 后加入甲醛 (40%) 10ml/m<sup>3</sup>, 熏蒸 4 小时以上。熏蒸时室内湿度 60%-80%。”

<sup>1064</sup> Ibid. The Chinese text that was paraphrased is: “(一) 开展新型冠状病毒相关实验活动的实验室应当制定废弃物处置程序文件及污物, 污水处理操作程序。(二) 所有的危险性废弃物必须依照统一规格化的容器和标示方式, 完整并且合规地标示废弃物内容。(三) 应当由经过适当培训的人员使用适当的个人防护装备和设备处理危险废弃物。(四) 废弃物的处理措施: 废弃物的处理是控制实验室生物安全的关键环节, 切实安全地处理感染性废弃物, 必须充分掌握生物安全废弃物的分类, 并严格执行相应的处理程序。”

<sup>1065</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “经处理达标后方可排放。”

<sup>1066</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “工作人员应当及时妥善处理废弃物, 不得将废弃物带出实验区。”

<sup>1067</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “固体废物分类收集, 固体废物的收集容器应当具有不易破裂, 防渗漏, 耐湿耐热, 可密封等特性。实验室内的感染性垃圾不允许堆积存放, 应当及时压力蒸汽灭菌处理。废物处置之前, 应当存放在实验室内指定的安全地方。”

<sup>1068</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “小型固体废物如组织标本, 耗材, 个人防护装备等均需经过压力蒸汽灭菌处理, 再沿废弃物通道移出实验室。”

<sup>1069</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “体积较大的固体废物如 HEPA 过滤器, 应当由专业人士进行原位消毒后, 装入安全容器内进行消毒灭菌。不能进行压力蒸汽灭菌的物品如电子设备可以采用环氧乙烷熏蒸消毒处理。”

<sup>1070</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “经消毒灭菌处理后移出实验室的固体废物, 集中交由固体废物处理单位处置。”

<sup>1071</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “实验过程如使用锐器 (包括针头, 小刀, 金属和玻璃等) 要直接弃置于锐器盒内, 高压灭菌后, 再做统一处理。”

<sup>1072</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “建立废弃物处理记录: 定期对实验室排风 HEPA 过滤器进行检漏和更换, 定期对处理后的污水进行监测, 采用生物指示剂监测压力蒸汽灭菌效果。”

<sup>1073</sup> For example, see “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese

Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任， 坚守使命 做我国高等生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>1074</sup> The original text from which these claims were derived is “课程内容涵盖了国家生物安全法律法规及标准, 高等生物安全实验室管理体系, 实验室生物安全风险评估方法, 菌毒种保藏, 动物实验以及实验室废弃物处理等内容。” See, “Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2019 Training Class on Biosafety Laboratory Management and Techniques for Conducting Experiments” (武汉病毒所举办 2019 年生物安全实验室管理与实验技术培训班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 November 2019.

<sup>1075</sup> See, “Announcement of Deal Reached for Project to Renovate the Hazardous Waste Management System at the Zhengdian Campus of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所郑店园区危废处理系统改造工程成交公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 31 July 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it.  
<https://archive.ph/3CW03#selection-149.0-152.0>

<sup>1076</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Safety, Record-Keeping Work Conference” (武汉病毒所召开安全, 档案工作会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 07 January 2020. For example, the WIV leadership told researchers: “任何时候都不能对安全工作掉以轻心, 必须进一步强化安全责任落实, 强化安全隐患整改, 强化危化品使用管理, 兢兢业业, 尽职尽责做好安全的各项工作,” and “做好全年的安全、档案工作至关重要。”

<sup>1077</sup> Rowan Jacobsen, “Inside the Risky Bat-Virus Engineering that Links America to Wuhan,” *MIT Technology Review*, 29 June 2021.

<sup>1078</sup> Kwok-Yung Yuen, et. al., “A Familial Cluster of Pneumonia Associated with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Indicating Person-to-Person Transmission: A Study of a Family Cluster,” *The Lancet*, Volume 395, Issue 10223, P514-523, 15 February 2020, published online on 24 January 2020.

<sup>1079</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1080</sup> For example, four days after the Lancet study was published, Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, downplayed concerns about asymptomatic transmission: “In all the history of respiratory-borne viruses of any type, asymptomatic transmission has never been the driver of outbreaks... Even if there’s a rare asymptomatic person that might transmit, an epidemic is not driven by asymptomatic carriers.” Daniel P. Oran and Eric J. Topol, “The Day We Let Covid-19 Spin Out of Control,” *STAT News*, 23 January 2021.

<sup>1081</sup> Pratha Sah, Meagan C. Fitzpatrick, Charlotte F. Zimmer, Elaheh Abdollahi, Lyndon Juden-Kelly, Seyed M. Moghadas, Burton H. Singer, and Alison P. Galvani, “Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (PNAS), Vol. 118, No. 34, published online on 10 August 2021.

<sup>1082</sup> Claude P. Muller, “Do Asymptomatic Carriers of SARS-CoV-2 Transmit the Virus?,” *The Lancet: Regional Health Europe*, Volume 4, 100082, 01 May 2021, published online on 20 March 2021.

<sup>1083</sup> Bin Cao, Jianwei Wang, et. al., “Clinical Features of Patients Infected with 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China,” *The Lancet*, Volume 395, Issue 10223, P497-506, February 15, 2020, published online on 24 January 2020.

<sup>1084</sup> Ibid, see in particular “Figure 1: Date of illness onset and age distribution of patients with laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV infection.”

<sup>1085</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1086</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1087</sup> The other Politburo Standing Committee meeting ostensibly occurred on January 7, but it was never reported in detail and not mentioned publicly until Xi’s speech given on February 3 was published by *Qiushi* on February 15. See later entry in this chronology. The quoted text is “会议强调, 湖北省武汉市等地近期陆续发生新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎疫情以来, 习近平总书记始终高度重视, 多次召开会议, 多次听取汇报, 作出重要指示...” See “The Politburo Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Held Meeting to Study the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia Caused by Novel Coronavirus Infections; General Secretary Xi Jinping Presided over the Meeting” (中共中央政治局常务委员会召开会议 研究新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎疫情防控工作 中共中央总书记习近平主持会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 25 January 2020.

<sup>1088</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “维护社会大局稳定.”

<sup>1089</sup> Another official report revealed that Xi emphasized support for him personally a priority of the epidemic response, appealing to local officials to “earnestly unify your thinking and actions with the decisions and

deployments made by Comrade Xi Jinping as the core of the Party Central” (切实把思想和行动统一到以习近平同志为核心的党中央的决策部署上来), and to “resolutely accomplish the Two Upholds,” (坚决做到 “两个维护”). The “Two Upholds” is a political doctrine that maintains that the primary duty of all CCP cadres is to “resolutely uphold Comrade Xi Jinping’s core position on the Central Committee, and in the Party as a whole, and resolutely uphold the Central Committee’s authority and its centralized, unified leadership.” See, “The Leading Group for Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic of the Central Cyberspace Administration of China Held a Meeting to Convey and Study the Spirit of the Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee”(中央网信办应对处置新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎疫情防控工作领导小组召开会议 传达学习中央政治局常委会会议精神), the *Central Cyberspace Administration of China* (Online), 26 January 2020.

<sup>1090</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “把疫情防控工作作为当前首要的政治任务... 举全办, 全系统之力切实做好疫情防控网上宣传引导工作...”

<sup>1091</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “推动网上形成众志成城...” and “营造网上良好氛围.”

<sup>1092</sup> “Li Keqiang Chairs Meeting to Launch the Central Leading Small Group for Work to Counter the New Coronavirus Infectious Pneumonia Epidemic” (李克强主持召开中央应对新型冠状病毒感染肺炎疫情工作领导小组会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 26 January 2020. The relevant text is “中央应对新型冠状病毒感染肺炎疫情工作领导小组成员丁薛祥, 孙春兰, 黄坤明, 蔡奇, 王毅, 肖捷, 赵克志参加会议.”

<sup>1093</sup> For Sun’s biography, see “Sun Chunlan,” *China Vitae*, last accessed on 19 March 2022.

<sup>1094</sup> “Li Keqiang Chairs Meeting to Launch the Central Leading Small Group for Work to Counter the New Coronavirus Infectious Pneumonia Epidemic” (李克强主持召开中央应对新型冠状病毒感染肺炎疫情工作领导小组会议), *Xinhua News Agency*, 26 January 2020. For more on Zhao, see Tristan Kenderdine, “Zhao Kezhi’s Legacy Could Define China’s Regional Security Paradigm,” *The Diplomat*, 12 April 2021.

<sup>1095</sup> Congressional-Executive Commission on China, “Institutions of Democratic Governance,” *2020 Annual Report*, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, Second Session, December 2020, p. 9.

<sup>1096</sup> See “The General Office of the State Council Issues Notice Regarding the Formation of the National Command Center for Preventing the SARS Pneumonia,” (国务院办公厅关于成立全国防治非典型肺炎指挥部的通知), *Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), PRC State Council 2003 Document No. 25, 28 April 2003.

<sup>1097</sup> “Xiao Juhua Investigates and Studies the Wuhan Institute of Virology and Directs the Emergency Response R&D Campaign for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic” (肖菊华调研武汉病毒所并部署应对 2019 新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情应急科研攻关), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 29 January 2020.

<sup>1098</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “加强溯源和病原学检测分析, 加快治疗药品和疫苗研发.”

<sup>1099</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “她强调, 在科研攻关过程中需协调的事项, 按照 ‘一事一报, 特事特办’ 的原则, 及时运转, 打通 ‘障碍’, 实现高效推进.”

<sup>1100</sup> See Table S1 in Tim K. Tsang, et. al., “Effect of Changing Case Definitions for COVID-19 on the Epidemic Curve and Transmission Parameters in Mainland China: a Modelling Study,” *The Lancet Public Health*, Volume 5, Issue 5, E289-E296, 01 MAY 2020, published online 21 April 2020.

<sup>1101</sup> John Xie, “In China, Officials Exclude Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carriers From Data,” *Voice of America*, 28 March 2020.

<sup>1102</sup> Table S1 in Tim K. Tsang, et. al., 21 April 2020.

<sup>1103</sup> John Xie, “In China, Officials Exclude Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carriers From Data,” *Voice of America*, 28 March 2020.

<sup>1104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1105</sup> Qun Li, et. al., “Early Transmission Dynamics in Wuhan, China, of Novel Coronavirus-Infected Pneumonia,” *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 2020; 382:1199-1207, print publication on 26 March 2020, published online on 29 January 2020.

<sup>1106</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, p. 97.

<sup>1107</sup> Mu Chunshan, “Why Do Some Chinese Still Love Bo Xilai?,” *The Diplomat*, 06 August 2013.

<sup>1108</sup> “General Office of the Ministry of Science and Technology Circular on Doing a Good Job with Novel Coronavirus Epidemic Prevention and Control Services for Foreign Experts Working in China” (科技部办公厅关于做好在华工作



外国专家防控新型冠状病毒疫情服务工作的通知), the *Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China* (Online), MOST 2020 Document No. 4, 31 January 2020.

<sup>1109</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “有效引导, 提振信心, 通过官方权威渠道开展宣传, 引导外国专家不信谣不传谣.”

<sup>1110</sup> James Griffiths, “China Says Xi Jinping is Directing its Wuhan Coronavirus Response, But He’s Nowhere to be Seen,” *CNN*, 05 February 2020.

<sup>1111</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, p. 44.

<sup>1112</sup> Tsukasa Hadano and Tomoya Onishi, “‘A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed,’ Xi tells Visiting Hun Sen,” *Nikkei Asia*, 06 February 2020.

<sup>1113</sup> James Griffiths, “Xi’s Reemergence Shows How Carefully China is Controlling the Coronavirus Narrative,” *CNN*, 11 February 2020.

<sup>1114</sup> Katherine Eban, “The Lab Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19’s Origins,” *Vanity Fair*, 03 June 2021.

<sup>1115</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, p. 15.

<sup>1116</sup> See, Jane Qiu, “How China’s ‘Bat Woman’ Hunted Down Viruses from SARS to the New Coronavirus,” *Scientific American*, 11 March 2020.

<sup>1117</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, p. 15.

<sup>1118</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), pg. 366; Don Tse and Larry Ong, Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 16.

<sup>1119</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 16.

<sup>1120</sup> Some observers (Tse and Ong) suggest that Wu was likely using a pseudonym, while others (Markson) raise the possibility that Wu was detained, or worse, for her posts. See Markson, p. 366, and Tse and Ong, p. 16.

<sup>1121</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 16.

<sup>1122</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), p. 368.

<sup>1123</sup> Jinsung Yang, Simon J.L. Petitjean, Melanie Koehler, et al., “Molecular interaction and inhibition of SARS-CoV-2 binding to the ACE2 receptor,” *Nature Communications*, Volume 11, Article No. 4541, 11 September 2020.

<sup>1124</sup> Xi Jinping (习近平), “Xi Jinping: Remarks to the Central Committee’s Politburo Standing Committee Meeting on Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic” (习近平：在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情防控工作时的讲话) *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1126</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “从年初一到现在, 疫情防控是我最关注的问题, 我时刻跟踪着疫情蔓延形势和防控工作进展情况, 不断作出口头指示和批示.”

<sup>1127</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “人民战争” and “全国形成了全面动员.” For more information on the meaning of a “people’s war,” see Guan Kai, “People’s War,” in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, Christian Sorace, et. al., eds., Australian National University Press: Canberra, 2019, pg. 175-180.

<sup>1128</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “总的看, 党中央对疫情形势的判断是准确的, 各项工作部署是及时的, 采取的举措也是有效的.”

<sup>1129</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “我在会见世界卫生组织总干事谭德塞时, 谭德塞表示, 中方行动速度之快, 规模之大, 世所罕见, 这是中国的制度优势, 有关经验值得其他国家借鉴, 相信中国采取的措施将有效控制并最终战胜疫情.”

<sup>1130</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “疫情防控要坚持全国一盘棋. 各级党委和政府必须坚决服从党中央统一指挥, 统一协调, 统一调度, 做到令行禁止.”

<sup>1131</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. Readers will recall that Xi’s reference to “shortcomings” echoes numerous WIV reports from 2019. The quoted text is “也存在一些薄弱环节和值得注意的问题, 必须抓紧补短板, 堵漏洞.”

<sup>1132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1133</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “战胜疫病离不开科技支撑。要科学论证病毒来源，尽快查明传染源和传播途径，密切跟踪病毒变异情况，及时研究防控策略和措施。”

<sup>1134</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “对相关数据和病例资料等，除有法律规定需要保密的外，在做好国家安全工作的条件下，要向我国科技界开放共享，组织临床医学，流行病学，病毒学等方面的专家，研究病毒传播力，毒性等关键特性，尽快拿出切实管用的研究成果。”

<sup>1135</sup> For more information on the stability maintenance system in China, see Willy Wo-Lap Lam, “‘Stability Maintenance’ Gets a Major Boost at the National People’s Congress,” *China Brief*, Volume 19, Issue 6, *Jamestown Foundation*, 22 March 2019; Juan Wang, “Managing Social Stability: The Perspective of a Local Government in China,” *Journal of East Asian Studies*, Volume 15, No. 1, January–April 2015, pg. 1–25; and Anna Mitchell and Larry Diamond, “China’s Surveillance State Should Scare Everyone,” *The Atlantic*, 02 February 2018.

<sup>1136</sup> The quoted text is “全力维护正常经济社会秩序。” Xi Jinping (习近平), “Xi Jinping: Remarks to the Central Committee’s Politburo Standing Committee Meeting on Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic” (习近平：在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情工作时的讲话) *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1137</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “要加大警力投入，强化显性用警，全面落实公安武警联勤联动联防联控机制，提高见警率，管事率。要保持严打高压态势。”

<sup>1138</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “当前疫情防控形势严峻复杂，一些群众存在焦虑，恐惧心理，宣传舆论工作要加大力度，统筹网上网下，国内国际，大事小事，更好强信心，暖人心，聚民心，更好维护社会大局稳定。”

<sup>1139</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “着力稳定公众情绪。”

<sup>1140</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “要把握好整体舆论，努力营造良好舆论环境。要加强网络媒体管控... 对借机造谣滋事的，要依法打击处理。”

<sup>1141</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “占据主动，有效影响国际舆论... 讲好中国抗击疫情故事...”

<sup>1142</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “这次疫情是对我国治理体系和能力的一次大考，我们一定要总结经验，吸取教训。要针对这次疫情应对中暴露出来的短板和不足，健全国家应急管理体系，提高处理急难险重任务能力。”

<sup>1143</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “这次疫情暴露出我们在城市公共环境治理方面还存在短板死角，要进行彻底排查整治，补齐公共卫生短板。”

<sup>1144</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “这次疫情暴露出重点卫生防疫物资（如防护服等）储备严重不足。”

<sup>1145</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “我们早就认识到，食用野生动物风险很大，但‘野味产业’依然规模庞大，对公共卫生安全构成了重大隐患。再也不能无动于衷了！我已经就这个问题作出了批示。有关部门要加强法律实施，加强市场监管，坚决取缔和严厉打击非法野生动物市场和贸易，坚决革除滥食野生动物的陋习，从源头上控制重大公共卫生风险。”

<sup>1146</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “还要抓紧出台生物安全法等法律。”

<sup>1147</sup> Of the 10 chapters and 88 articles contained in the Biosecurity Law, only one article, Article 32, deals with animal borne diseases, and it is completely lacking in detail. It simply states “The state protects wild animals and strengthens animal epidemic prevention to prevent the spread of infectious diseases derived from animals” (国家保护野生动物加强动物防疫防止动物源性传染病传播). By contrast, all of Chapter Five deals with biosafety at laboratories studying highly pathogenic microorganisms. See “The Biosecurity Law of the People’s Republic of China” (中华人民共和国生物安全法), *The National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 17 October 2020.

<sup>1148</sup> Xu Zhangrun (許章潤), “Viral Alert: When Fury Overcomes Fear,” translated and annotated by Geremie R. Barmé, *ChinaFile*, 10 February 2020.

<sup>1149</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1150</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1151</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. Note that when Professor Xu writes “It began with the imposition of stern bans on the reporting of accurate information about the virus,” he is most likely referring to the nationwide gag order issued by the National Health Commission on January 3.

<sup>1152</sup> See Table S1 in Tim K. Tsang, et. al., “Effect of Changing Case Definitions for COVID-19 on the Epidemic Curve and Transmission Parameters in Mainland China: a Modelling Study,” *The Lancet Public Health*, Volume 5, Issue 5, E289–E296, 01 MAY 2020, published online 21 April 2020.

<sup>1153</sup> These clinical symptoms were 1. fever and/or respiratory symptoms, 2. pneumonia indicated by chest radiograph, and 3. low or normal white blood cell count, or low lymphocyte count during early onset.

<sup>1154</sup> The four epidemiological links were: (1) travel to, or had lived in Wuhan or the surrounding areas or other communities with reported COVID-19 cases, within 14 days before illness onset, (2) contact with patient(s) infected with SARS-CoV-2 (positive for SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid) within 14 days before onset, (3) contact with patients with fever or respiratory symptoms from Wuhan or the surrounding areas, or from communities with reported COVID-19 cases, within 14 days before illness onset, and (4) had a clustering occurrence.

<sup>1155</sup> Table S1 in Tim K. Tsang, et. al., 21 April 2020.

<sup>1156</sup> John Xie, "In China, Officials Exclude Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carriers From Data," *Voice of America*, 28 March 2020.

<sup>1157</sup> Nectar Gan and Natalie Thomas, "Chen Qiushi Spoke Out About the Wuhan Virus. Now People Fear He's Been Silenced," *CNN*, 10 February 2020.

<sup>1158</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1159</sup> Geremie R. Barmé, "How Steel Is Tempered: Chen Qiushi Returns," *China Heritage*, 06 October 2021.

<sup>1160</sup> "Chen Qiushi: Chinese Journalist Missing Since February 'Under State Supervision'," *BBC News*, 24 September 2020.

<sup>1161</sup> Keith Zhai, "Chinese Citizen Journalist Who Documented Covid-19 in Wuhan Resurfaces After 600 Days," *The Wall Street Journal*, 01 October 2021.

<sup>1162</sup> "Li Wenliang: Coronavirus Death of Wuhan Doctor Sparks Anger," *BBC News*, 07 February 2020.

<sup>1163</sup> *Ibid.* Gerry Shih, "Doctor's death from coronavirus sparks a digital uprising, rattling China's leaders," *The Washington Post*, 07 February 2020.

<sup>1164</sup> Joy Dong, "Two Years After His Death, the Chinese Doctor who Warned of the Virus is Remembered," *The New York Times*, 07 February 2022.

<sup>1165</sup> Julia Hollingsworth and Yong Xiong, "China's Truth-tellers: China Created a Story of the Pandemic. These People Revealed Details Beijing Left Out," *CNN*, 15 February 2021.

<sup>1166</sup> "Coronavirus: Why Have Two Reporters in Wuhan Disappeared?," *BBC News*, 14 February 2020.

<sup>1167</sup> "Fang Bin, COVID-19 Whistleblower and Falun Gong Practitioner, Detained in Wuhan," *Falun Dafa Information Center*, 24 March 2022.

<sup>1168</sup> They were the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Health Commission, the General Administration of Customs, the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

<sup>1169</sup> See the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (2020 No. 15), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Health Commission, the General Administration of Customs, the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, "Circular on Strengthening Biosecurity and Biosafety Management of Animal Pathogen Molecular Biology Labs" (关于加强动物病原微生物实验室生物安全管理的通知), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), issued on 09 February 2020, posted online on 02 March 2020.

<sup>1170</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "为深入贯彻落实总体国家安全观, 切实推进国家生物安全, 进一步加强动物病原微生物实验室生物安全管理."

<sup>1171</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "病原微生物实验室生物安全是国家生物安全的重要组成部分."

<sup>1172</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "部分实验室生物安全管理工作仍存在一些问题和隐患. 各地各有关部门要切实增强做好病原微生物实验室生物安全管理的责任感和使命感, 强化安全意识, 健全管理措施, 落实管理责任, 有效防范和化解实验室生物安全风险."

<sup>1173</sup> Ryan Clarke and Lam Peng Er, "Coronavirus Research in China: Origins, International Networks, and Consequences," Non-Traditional Security (NTS)-Asia Consortium, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 20 May 2021, p. 12, 17-18.

<sup>1174</sup> The quoted text is "采集高致病性病原微生物样本的工作人员在采集过程中应当防止病原微生物扩散和感染, 并对样本的来源, 采集过程和方法等作详细记录." See the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (2020 No. 15), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Health Commission, the General Administration of Customs, the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, "Circular on Strengthening Biosecurity and Biosafety Management of Animal Pathogen Molecular Biology



Labs” (关于加强动物病原微生物实验室生物安全管理的通知), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), issued on 09 February 2020, posted online on 02 March 2020

<sup>1175</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “各实验室及其设立单位应加强相关实验活动废弃物的处置监管, 保证灭菌有效, 流向可追溯。”

<sup>1176</sup> See, “Announcement of Deal Reached for Project to Renovate the Hazardous Waste Management System at the Zhengdian Campus of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所郑店园区危废处理系统改造工程成交公告), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 31 July 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it.

<https://archive.ph/3CW03#selection-149.0-152.0>

<sup>1177</sup> The quoted text is “配合做好新建, 改建, 扩建生物安全三级, 四级实验室审查. 建立和完善部门间生物安全三级, 四级实验室管理信息交流机制, 共同推动实验室依法依规建设.” See the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (2020 No. 15), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Health Commission, the General Administration of Customs, the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, “Circular on Strengthening Biosecurity and Biosafety Management of Animal Pathogen Molecular Biology Labs” (关于加强动物病原微生物实验室生物安全管理的通知), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), issued on 09 February 2020, posted online on 02 March 2020.

<sup>1178</sup> See, “Xiang Shuilun Examines the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Work of Establishing a ‘Red Flag Party Branch’” (项水伦考核武汉病毒所“红旗党支部”创建工作), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 11 June 2019; “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任, 坚守使命 做我国高等级生物安全领域的开拓者—中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>1179</sup> Lily Kuo, “China Fires Two Senior Hubei Officials Over Coronavirus Outbreak,” *The Guardian*, 11 February 2020.

<sup>1180</sup> “China Removes Party Chiefs in Hubei and Wuhan Amid Epidemic,” *Reuters* reprinted in *Nikkei Asia*, 13 February 2020; Kalpit A. Mankikar, “Proximity to China’s Chief a Double-Edged Sword,” *Observer Research Foundation* (Online), 24 October 2020.

<sup>1181</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 219.

<sup>1182</sup> “China Removes Party Chiefs in Hubei and Wuhan Amid Epidemic,” *Reuters* reprinted in *Nikkei Asia*, 13 February 2020.

<sup>1183</sup> “Coronavirus: Senior Chinese Officials ‘Removed’ as Death Toll Hits 1,000,” *BBC News*, 11 February 2020.

<sup>1184</sup> William Zheng, “Wuhan Mayor to Step Down, a Year After He Came Under Fire Over Coronavirus Response,” *South China Morning Post*, 20 January 2021.

<sup>1185</sup> Patricia M. Thornton, “Crisis and Governance: SARS and the Resilience of the Chinese Body Politic,” *The China Journal*, University of Chicago Press, No. 61 (January 2009), p. 26.

<sup>1186</sup> Derek Scissors, “Estimating the True Number of China’s COVID-19 Cases,” *The American Enterprise Institute* (Online), 07 April 2020.

<sup>1187</sup> Nick Wadhams and Jennifer Jacobs, “China Concealed Coronavirus Outbreak Extent: U.S. Intelligence Says,” *Bloomberg*, 01 April 2020.

<sup>1188</sup> Harry Cole and Stephen Adams, “China’s Efforts to Blame Coronavirus on a US Army Delegation to Wuhan Infuriate No. 10 as Boris Johnson’s Advisers Say Beijing’s Statistics on its Cases Could be Downplayed by a Factor of 40,” *The Mail on Sunday*, 28 March 2020.

<sup>1189</sup> Dake Kang, “China Testing Blunders Stemmed from Secret Deals with Firms,” *The Associated Press*, 03 December 2020.

<sup>1190</sup> Tim K. Tsang, et. al., “Effect of Changing Case Definitions for COVID-19 on the Epidemic Curve and Transmission Parameters in Mainland China: a Modelling Study,” *The Lancet Public Health*, Volume 5, Issue 5, E289-E296, 01 MAY 2020, published online 21 April 2020.

<sup>1191</sup> John Xie, “In China, Officials Exclude Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carriers From Data,” *Voice of America*, 28 March 2020.

<sup>1192</sup> Amy Woodyatt, Ivana Kottasová, James Griffiths, and Helen Regan, “China’s Changed How it Counts Virus Cases Three Times Now. Here’s Why,” *CNN*, 12 February 2020.

<sup>1193</sup> George Calhoun, "Part 1: Beijing Is Intentionally Underreporting China's Covid Death Rate," *Forbes Magazine*, 02 January 2022. George Calhoun, "China's Manipulation Of Covid Data: The Two 'Smoking Guns'," *Forbes Magazine*, 17 January 2022.

<sup>1194</sup> Lisa Beilfuss, "China's Coronavirus Figures Don't Add Up. 'This Never Happens With Real Data.'," *Barron's*, 15 February 2020.

<sup>1195</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1196</sup> George Calhoun, "Part 1: Beijing Is Intentionally Underreporting China's Covid Death Rate," *Forbes Magazine*, 02 January 2022.

<sup>1197</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1198</sup> Derek Scissors, "Estimating the True Number of China's COVID-19 Cases," *The American Enterprise Institute* (Online), 07 April 2020.

<sup>1199</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1200</sup> George Calhoun, "Part 1: Beijing Is Intentionally Underreporting China's Covid Death Rate," *Forbes Magazine*, 02 January 2022.

<sup>1201</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1202</sup> Jasper Becker, *Made in China: Wuhan, Covid, and the Quest for Biotech Supremacy*, (London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., 2021), p. 244.

<sup>1203</sup> George Calhoun, "Part 1: Beijing Is Intentionally Underreporting China's Covid Death Rate," *Forbes Magazine*, 02 January 2022.

<sup>1204</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1205</sup> Scott N. Romaniuk and Tobias Burgers, "Can China's COVID-19 Statistics Be Trusted?" *The Diplomat*, 26 March 2020.

<sup>1206</sup> George Calhoun, "China's Manipulation Of Covid Data: The Two 'Smoking Guns'," *Forbes Magazine*, 17 January 2022.

<sup>1207</sup> Phoebe Zhang, "Disaster or Zero-Covid? China Has No Choice For Now, Top Official Says," *The South China Morning Post*, 24 April 2022.

<sup>1208</sup> Joe McDonald and Huizhong Wu, "Top Chinese Official Admits Vaccines Have Low Effectiveness," *The Associated Press*, 11 April 2021.

<sup>1209</sup> George Calhoun, "China's Manipulation Of Covid Data: The Two 'Smoking Guns'," *Forbes Magazine*, 17 January 2022.

<sup>1210</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1211</sup> A detailed study by the St Louis Federal Reserve Bank concluded that "skepticism for Chinese official economic data is widespread, and it should be." See, Michael T. Owyang and Hannah Shell, "China's Economic Data: An Accurate Reflection, or Just Smoke and Mirrors?" *The St Louis Federal Reserve Bank* (Online), 25 July 2017. The PRC's official economic statistics often differ from private attempts to replicate the results. See, Lisa Beilfuss, "China's Coronavirus Figures Don't Add Up. 'This Never Happens With Real Data.'," *Barron's*, 15 February 2020. Even PRC Premier Li Keqiang famously told the U.S. Ambassador to China that he did not trust the PRC official economic data, and so he looked at trends in electricity consumption, railway freight, and bank loans as more reliable indicators of the true state of the economy. See, Peter Cai, "The Li Keqiang Index is Dead, Long Live the New Li Keqiang Index," *The Lowy Institute* (Online), 11 March 2016.

<sup>1212</sup> "China's Census Data Hints at Scale of COVID Coverup," *SinoInsider*, 16 May 2021; Jane Lanhee Lee, "Researcher Questions China's Population Data, Says It May Be Lower," *Reuters*, 04 December 2021.

<sup>1213</sup> See, Frank Dikotter, *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-1962*, (New York: Bloomsbury USA, October 2011); and Yang Jisheng, *Tombstone: The Great Chinese Famine, 1958-1962*, (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, November 2013).

<sup>1214</sup> See, Frank Dikotter, *The Cultural Revolution: A People's History, 1962—1976*, (New York: Bloomsbury USA, June 2017).

<sup>1215</sup> "Tiananmen Square Protest Death Toll 'was 10,000'," *BBC News*, 23 December 2017.

<sup>1216</sup> Josephine Ma and Zhang Pinghui, "Chinese Medical Staff Paying 'Too High a Price' in Battle to Curb Coronavirus," *South China Morning Post*, 14 February 2020; and Daniel R. Lucey, "China Discloses 1,716 Healthcare Workers with Covid-19: Feb. 14, 2020," *Infectious Diseases Society of America* (Online), 14 February 2020.

<sup>1217</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1218</sup> The exact statement at that time was “Up until now, the investigation has not yet uncovered obvious transmission from person-to-person nor infections of medical personnel.” See, “Wuhan Municipal Health Commission Situational Report on a Pneumonia Epidemic Currently in our City” (武汉市卫健委关于当前我市肺炎疫情的情况通报), *Wuhan Municipal Health Commission* (Online), 31 December 2019.

<sup>1219</sup> “China Didn’t Warn Public of Likely Pandemic for 6 Key Days,” *The Associated Press*, 15 April 2020.

<sup>1220</sup> Nicky Phillips, Smriti Mallapaty, and David Cyranoski, “How Quickly Does the Wuhan Virus Spread?,” *Nature Magazine*, 21 January 2020.

<sup>1221</sup> “Xi Jinping Chairs and Convenes the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Central Commission on Comprehensively Deepening Reform and Emphasizes: Improve the System and Mechanisms for Major Epidemic Prevention and Control and Strengthen the National Public Health Emergency Management System” (习近平主持召开中央全面深化改革委员会第十二次会议强调：完善重大疫情防控体制机制 健全国家公共卫生应急管理体系), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 14 February 2020.

<sup>1222</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “既要立足当前，科学精准打赢疫情防控阻击战，更要放眼长远，总结经验，吸取教训，针对这次疫情暴露出来的短板和不足，抓紧补短板，堵漏洞，强弱项，该坚持的坚持，该完善的完善，该建立的建立，该落实的落实，完善重大疫情防控体制机制，健全国家公共卫生应急管理体系。”

<sup>1223</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “习近平强调，要强化公共卫生法治保障，全面加强和完善公共卫生领域相关法律法规建设，认真评估传染病防治法，野生动物保护法等法律法规的修改完善。”

<sup>1224</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “要从保护人民健康，保障国家安全，维护国家长治久安的高度，把生物安全纳入国家安全体系，系统规划国家生物安全风险防控和治理体系建设，全面提高国家生物安全治理能力。要尽快推动出台生物安全法，加快构建国家生物安全法律法规体系，制度保障体系。”

<sup>1225</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 8-9.

<sup>1226</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 7.

<sup>1227</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 6-9.

<sup>1228</sup> The quoted text is “要优化重要应急物资产能保障和区域布局，做到关键时刻调得出，用得上。” “Xi Jinping Chairs and Convenes the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Central Commission on Comprehensively Deepening Reform and Emphasizes: Improve the System and Mechanisms for Major Epidemic Prevention and Control and Strengthen the National Public Health Emergency Management System” (习近平主持召开中央全面深化改革委员会第十二次会议强调：完善重大疫情防控体制机制 健全国家公共卫生应急管理体系), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 14 February 2020.

<sup>1229</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “对短期可能出现的物资供应短缺，建立集中生产调度机制，统一组织原材料供应，安排定点生产，规范质量标准，确保应急物资保障有序有力。要健全国家储备体系，科学调整储备的品类，规模，结构，提升储备效能。要建立国家统一的应急物资采购供应体系，对应急救援物资实行集中管理，统一调拨，统一配送，推动应急物资供应保障网更加高效安全可控。”

<sup>1230</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “习近平指出，要改革完善疾病预防控制体系，坚决贯彻预防为主的健康工作方针，坚持常备不懈，将预防关口前移，避免小病酿成大疫。”

<sup>1231</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “要强化风险意识，完善公共卫生重大风险研判，评估，决策，防控协同机制。”

<sup>1232</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “要鼓励运用大数据，人工智能，云计算等数字技术，在疫情监测分析，病毒溯源，防控救治，资源调配等方面更好发挥支撑作用。”

<sup>1233</sup> “Full Transcript of News Conference on February 15, 2020,” (2020 年 2 月 15 日新闻发布会文字实录), *National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1234</sup> The Chinese title is “关于加强新冠病毒高等级病毒微生物实验室生物安全管理的指导意见。” For an example of an official source where the existence of this directive was cited, see “Written Transcript of News Conference on February 15, 2020,” (2020 年 2 月 15 日新闻发布会文字实录), the *PRC National Health Commission* (Online), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1235</sup> “Xi Jinping Demands that Biosecurity Legislation be Expedited, China Ministry of Science and Technology Rushes to Release Management Regulations,” (习近平要求加速生物安全立法 中国科学技术部急推管理法规), *Radio Free Asia*, 15 February 2020. Xi Jinping (习近平), “Xi Jinping: Remarks to the Central Committee’s Politburo



Standing Committee Meeting on Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic,” (习近平：在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情工作时的讲话), Seeking Truth (求是), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1236</sup> The relevant text that makes this link is “为合法合规、高效有序地推进全国应急科技攻关，先后印发《关于加强新冠肺炎科技攻关相关管理的通知》《关于加强新冠病毒高等级病毒微生物实验室生物安全管理的指导意见》，为打赢疫情防控科研攻坚战提供有力的制度保障。积极配合全国人大、司法部等有关部门开展《生物安全法》《动物防疫法》《生物技术研究开发安全管理条例》等法律法规起草工作，提出相关立法建议，推动构建我国生物安全风险防控的长效机制。” See, “Ministry of Science and Technology Situational Report on the Construction of a Rule by Law Government in 2020” (科技部 2020 年法治政府建设情况报告), the *PRC Ministry of Science and Technology* (Online), 30 March 2021.

<sup>1237</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “推动构建我国生物安全风险防控的长效机制。”

<sup>1238</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “根据科技部下发的《关于加强新冠病毒高等级病毒微生物实验室生物安全管理的指导意见》，全面加强生物安全教育，安全隐患排除，组织广大职工认真学习‘生物安全管理’相关制度，进一步提醒科研人员做好自身的科研防护，确保科研工作有序开展，做到安全防范。” See, “Provincial Academy of Sciences: Institute of Microbiology Focuses on Epidemic Prevention and Control by Actively Carrying Out Scientific Research to Tackle the Key Problem of the Epidemic” (省科学院：微生物所围绕防控疫情积极开展科研攻关), *Heilongjiang Provincial CCP Committee Party Building* (Online), 26 February 2020.

<sup>1239</sup> His name was Wu Yuanbin (吴远彬), and his title was the director of the Bureau for Social Development Science and Technology (科技部社会发展科技司司长).

<sup>1240</sup> Emphasis added. The quoted text is “出台《关于加强新冠病毒高等级病毒微生物实验室生物安全管理的指导意见》，要求实验室发挥平台作用，服务科技攻关需求，各主管部门要加强对实验室，特别是对病毒的管理，确保生物安全。在科技攻关中既强调特事特办，又强调合法合规...” See, “Full Transcript of News Conference on February 15, 2020,” (2020 年 2 月 15 日新闻发布会文字实录), *National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1241</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1242</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “目前我们已经设计完成了这个疫苗，现在已经在动物体内进行测试，看看免疫效果，还要进行安全性评价。现在正在做的工作还有生产工艺研发的过程。”

<sup>1243</sup> Botao Xiao and Lei Xiao, “The Possible Origins of 2019-nCoV Coronavirus,” *Research Gate*, Preprint, 15 February 2020. Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Viral: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 60.

<sup>1244</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1245</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021, pg. 363-364. Note that Senator Rubio’s staff has independently reviewed a screenshot of the Weibo post in question. Its authenticity is difficult to judge.

<sup>1246</sup> The case of Li Ning, a well-known scientist at the Chinese Academy of Engineering and China Agricultural University, is one recent example. See Markson, pg. 366-367; and Li Yan, “Biosafety Guideline Issued to Fix Chronic Management Loopholes at Virus Labs,” *The Global Times*, 17 February 2020.

<sup>1247</sup> Huang’s name in Chinese is written as 黄燕玲. Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 16; Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, (Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021), pg. 359-361.

<sup>1248</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 16-17.

<sup>1249</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Responds to ‘Patient Zero’: Huang Yanling Has Not Been Infected,” (武汉病毒所回应“零号病人”：黄燕玲未曾被感染), *Xinhua News Agency*, 16 February 2020.

<sup>1250</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021, pg. 360.

<sup>1251</sup> Tse and Ong, pg. 16-17.

<sup>1252</sup> Markson interviews China expert Miles Yu who makes this point (pg. 361-362). For other examples unrelated to the coronavirus outbreak, see Katie Hunt, “China: Detained Swedish Man Makes TV Confession,” *CNN*, 20 January 2016; Steven Lee Myers, “How China Uses Forced Confessions as a Propaganda Tool,” *The New York Times*, 11 April

2018; and Dominique Patton and Natalie Thomas, "Chinese Tennis Player Peng Denies Making Accusation of Sexual Assault," *Reuters*, 07 February 2022.

<sup>1253</sup> William Zheng, "Why Chinese President Xi Jinping Called 170,000 Cadres About the Coronavirus Epidemic," *South China Morning Post*, 25 February 2020.

<sup>1254</sup> "Why Xi Spoke Directly to 170,000 Cadres; How Globalization Affects China," *SinoInsider*, 27 February 2020.

<sup>1255</sup> The quoted/referenced text is "1月22日,党中央果断要求湖北省对人员外流实施全面严格管控.作出这一决策,需要巨大政治勇气,但该出手时必须出手,否则当断不断,反受其乱." See, "Xi Jinping: Speech at the Conference on Planning and Promoting Prevention and Control for the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic and Social-Economic Development Work Deployment" (习近平:在统筹推进新冠肺炎疫情防控和经济社会发展工作部署会议上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 24 February 2020.

<sup>1256</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "实践证明,党中央对疫情形势的判断是准确的,各项工作部署是及时的,采取的举措是有力有效的.防控工作取得的成效,再次彰显了中国共产党领导和中国特色社会主义制度的显著优势."

<sup>1257</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "在这次应对疫情中,暴露出我国在重大疫情防控体制机制,公共卫生应急管理体系等方面存在的明显短板,要总结经验,吸取教训...抓紧补短板,堵漏洞,强弱项,提高应对突发重大公共卫生事件的能力和水平...真正把问题解决在萌芽之时,成灾之前."

<sup>1258</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "四是加强医用物资和生活必需品应急保供.打疫情防控阻击战,实际上也是打后勤保障战.我们采取积极措施,支持医用防护服,口罩等疫情防控急需医疗物资的生产企业迅速复工达产..."

<sup>1259</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "作为一种新发传染病,我们对新冠肺炎的认识还比较初步.要综合多学科力量开展科研攻关,加强传染源,传播致病机理等理论研究...要加大药品和疫苗研发力度."

<sup>1260</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "我们推动做好社会面安全稳定工作,妥善处理疫情防控中可能出现的各类问题,维护医疗秩序,市场秩序等,严厉打击涉疫违法犯罪,加强群众心理疏导和干预."

<sup>1261</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is "我们加大宣传舆论工作力度,统筹网上网下,国内国际,大事小事,营造强信心,暖人心,聚民心的环境氛围.我们规范和完善信息发布机制,深入宣传党中央决策部署,充分报道各地区各部门联防联控的措施成效,生动讲述防疫抗疫一线的感人事迹.我们广泛普及疫情防控知识,引导人民群众正确理性看待疫情...我们及时回应社会关切特别是群众的集中诉求,不回避矛盾,积极推动问题解决.我们改进和加强对外宣传,运用多种形式在国际舆论场及时发声,讲好中国抗疫故事,及时揭露一些别有用心的人污蔑抹黑,造谣生事的言行..."

<sup>1262</sup> Zhou Yusen (周育森), Zhao Guangyu (赵光宇), Gu Hongjing (谷宏婧), Sun Shihui (孙世惠), He Lei (何雷), Li Yan (黎燕), Han Gengcheng (韩根成), Lang Xiaolin (朗小玲), Liu Jie (刘杰), Geng Shusheng (耿树生), and Sheng Xiaoli (盛晓丽), "Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine, Methods of Preparation and its Applications," (新型冠状病毒 COVID-19 疫苗, 制备方法及其应用), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 24 February 2020, patent authorization date 26 June 2020, Patent Authorization Number: CN 111333704 A. Please note that Senator Rubio's staff has independently reviewed the original Chinese patent application filed by Zhou and his team, but for the purposes of the general reader who may not be able to access or read the original Chinese document, you may consult Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021, pg. 370.

<sup>1263</sup> The Chinese name of the firm is 北京昭衍生物技术有限公司. It is a pharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing organization that was founded in early 2018, according to its website. See, <http://www.joinnbio.com.cn>

<sup>1264</sup> The full description is a Ministry of Science and Technology "emergency project to tackle the key problem [the coronavirus outbreak]" (国家科技部的应急攻关项目), which is taken from an updated press release from early 2020 on the website of JOINN Biologics. See, "JOINN Biologics Assists Research and Development of Novel Coronavirus Recombinant Protein Vaccine" (昭衍生物助力新型冠状病毒重组蛋白疫苗研发), <http://m.joinnbio.com.cn/news/22.html>

<sup>1265</sup> Fang Li, et. al., "Molecular Mechanism for Antibody-Dependent Enhancement of Coronavirus Entry," *Journal of Virology*, 2020 March; 94(5): e02015-19, published online 14 February 2020, submitted on 27 November 2019.

<sup>1266</sup> *Ibid.*



<sup>1267</sup> The quoted text is “我们单位是科学院团队, 我们承担的工作是重组的蛋白疫苗. 重组蛋白疫苗是把一个病原体最有效的抗原成份基因拿出来, 进行体外重组, 表达蛋白, 然后制成疫苗. 这种疫苗不需要场所, 比如病毒特征的灭活苗需要一个相应生物安全等级的场所. 目前这个疫苗进展非常顺利, 我们团队这两年做 MERS 疫苗, 在疫苗设计过程中我们取得了一些好的结果. 新冠病毒来了以后, 我们很快把这个策略和方法用在新冠病毒疫苗的设计, 目前我们已经设计完成了这个疫苗, 现在已经在动物体内进行测试, 看看免疫效果, 还要进行安全性评价. 现在正在做的工作还有生产工艺研发的过程.” See, “Full Transcript of News Conference on February 15, 2020,” (2020 年 2 月 15 日新闻发布会文字实录), *National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1268</sup> See, “JOINN Biologics Assists Research and Development of Novel Coronavirus Recombinant Protein Vaccine” (昭衍生物助力新型冠状病毒重组蛋白疫苗研发), <http://m.joinnbio.com.cn/news/22.html>

<sup>1269</sup> For an in-depth discussion of such continuities, see Yan’s paper with George Gao that was published in June 2020 on the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines that they had developed. George F. Gao, et. al., “A Universal Design of Betacoronavirus Vaccines against COVID-19, MERS, and SARS,” *Cell Journal*, 2020 Aug 6;182(3):722-733.e11, published online on 28 June 2020 and in print form on 06 August 2020.

<sup>1270</sup> Both Yan Jinghua and Zhang Xinmin (张新民), the director of the Biology Center at the Ministry of Science and Technology, stated at the press conference on February 15 that multiple lines of vaccine development were underway, including inactivated viral vaccines (灭活疫苗), mRNA vaccines, recombinant protein vaccines (重组蛋白疫苗), viral vector vaccines (病毒载体疫苗), and DNA vaccines. See, “Full Transcript of News Conference on February 15, 2020,” (2020 年 2 月 15 日新闻发布会文字实录), *National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China* (Online), 15 February 2020.

<sup>1271</sup> The three researchers at the PLA AMMS Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology who were both coauthors of the November 2019 MERS paper and listed as co-inventors on the vaccine patent were Zhou Yusen (周育森), Sun Shihui (孙世惠), and He Lei (何雷). See, Fang Li, Et. al., “Molecular Mechanism for Antibody-Dependent Enhancement of Coronavirus Entry,” *Journal of Virology*, Volume 94, Issue 5, March 2020.

<sup>1272</sup> See Yan’s faculty profile on the website of the Chinese Academy of Sciences University. <https://people.ucas.ac.cn/~jhyan>

<sup>1273</sup> Dake Kang, Maria Cheng, and Sam McNeil, “China Clamps Down in Hidden Hunt for Coronavirus Origins,” *The Associated Press*, 30 December 2020. The first CDCP directive was called “Notice of the Institute of Viral Disease Prevention and Control on Strengthening Management of Science and Technological Achievements During the Prevention and Control Period of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic” (病毒病预防控制所关于加强新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎疫情防控期间有关科技成果管理的通知). Thanks to the Associated Press, it can be accessed here: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/7340335-China-CDC-Sci-Tech.html>

<sup>1274</sup> Dake Kang, Maria Cheng, and Sam McNeil, “China Clamps Down in Hidden Hunt for Coronavirus Origins,” *The Associated Press*, 30 December 2020. The second CDCP directive was called “On the Supplementary Regulations on Strengthening the Management of Science and Technology During the Emergency Response to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia” (关于加强新型冠状病毒肺炎应急响应期间有关科技管理的补充规定). Thanks to the Associated Press, it can be accessed here: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/7340336-China-CDC-Sup-Regs.html>

<sup>1275</sup> Ibid, p. 6.

<sup>1276</sup> Ibid, p. 6.

<sup>1277</sup> “Zhao Kezhi’s Speech at the Deployment Meeting for the Overall Planning and Promotion of the National Public Security Units’ Work to Prevent and Control the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic and Safeguard Political Security and Social Stability Emphasized Earnestly Studying and Implementing the Spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping’s Important Speeches and Diligently Planning for and Promoting Epidemic Prevention and Control and Economic and Social Development to Create a Safe and Stable Environment” (赵克志在统筹推进全国公安机关新冠肺炎疫情防控和维护国家政治安全社会稳定工作部署会议上强调认真学习贯彻习近平总书记重要讲话精神, 努力为统筹推进疫情防控和经济社会发展创造安全稳定环境), the *PRC Ministry of Public Security* (Online), 24 February 2020. On February 25, the *Legal Daily* also printed the story under the headline: “赵克志: 努力为统筹推进疫情防控和经济社会发展创造安全稳定环境.”



<sup>1278</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “赵克志要求, 要始终把维护政治安全放在首位, 严密防范, 坚决打击境内外敌对势力借疫情进行的各种捣乱破坏活动, 及时发现处置各类网上谣言和有害信息, 坚决捍卫国家政治安全。”

<sup>1279</sup> “China's Legislature Adopts Decision on Banning Illegal Trade, Consumption of Wildlife,” *Xinhua* reprinted on the *State Council of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 25 February 2020.

<sup>1280</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1281</sup> Smriti Mallapaty, “China Set to Clamp Down Permanently on Wildlife Trade in Wake of Coronavirus,” *Nature Magazine*, 21 February 2020.

<sup>1282</sup> Ben Westcott, “China Coronavirus: Eating Wild Animals Made Illegal But Ending the Trade Won't be Easy,” *CNN*, 05 March 2020.

<sup>1283</sup> Julia Hollingsworth and Yong Xiong, “China's Truth-tellers: China Created a Story of the Pandemic. These People Revealed Details Beijing Left Out,” *CNN*, 15 February 2021.

<sup>1284</sup> Lily Kuo, “‘They're Chasing Me’: the Journalist who Wouldn't Stay Quiet on Covid-19,” *The Guardian*, 01 March 2020; Alexis Carey, “Mystery of missing activists who spoke out about China's Covid cover-up,” *News.Com.Au*, 05 October 2021.

<sup>1285</sup> “Li Zehua: Journalist who 'Disappeared' after Wuhan Chase Reappears,” *BBC News*, 23 April 2020.

<sup>1286</sup> Keith Zhai, “Chinese Citizen Journalist Who Documented Covid-19 in Wuhan Resurfaces After 600 Days,” *Wall Street Journal*, 01 October 2021.

<sup>1287</sup> Liu Jie, Wang Pan and Xiao Sisi, “Profile: Zhong Nanshan: outspoken doctor awarded China's top honor,” *XinhuaNet*, 08 September 2020.

<sup>1288</sup> Javier C. Hernandez and Austin Ramzy, “China Confirms New Coronavirus Spreads From Humans to Humans,” *The New York Times*, 20 January 2020.

<sup>1289</sup> “China Focus: Confident Novel Coronavirus Outbreak under Control by Late April: Health Expert,” *XinhuaNet*, 27 February 2020.

<sup>1290</sup> “Xi Jinping During Inspections in Beijing of Research and Development Work to Tackle the Key Problem of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Prevention and Control Work Emphasizing Making a Coordinated Push, Research and Development Work to Tackle the Key Problem of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Prevention and Control Work Provides Powerful Science and Technology Support to Win the Blockade War of Epidemic Prevention and Control” (习近平在北京考察新冠肺炎防控科研攻关工作时强调 协同推进, 新冠肺炎防控科研攻关 为打赢疫情防控阻击战提供科技支撑), *Xinhua News Agency*, 03 March 2020.

<sup>1291</sup> Xi Jinping, “Provide Powerful Science and Technology Support to Win the Blockade War of Epidemic Prevention and Control” (为打赢疫情防控阻击战提供强大科技支撑), *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 March 2020.

<sup>1292</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “统筹病毒溯源及其传播途径研究, 搞清楚病源从哪里来, 向哪里去。正如专家所言, 这次疫情病毒很狡猾, 溯源工作面临很大困难。同时, 新技术发展为病毒溯源提供了新的手段, 可以利用病毒蛋白和不同受体的结合特征, 评估可疑动物作为中间宿主的可能性, 利用人工智能, 大数据等新技术开展流行病学和溯源调查, 提高精准度和筛查效率。病毒溯源和传播途径研究, 对整个疫情防控至关重要, 必须全力弄清楚。”

<sup>1293</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “重大传染病和生物安全风险是事关国家安全和发展的, 事关社会大局稳定的重大风险挑战。要把生物安全作为国家总体安全的重要组成部分, 坚持平时和战时结合, 预防和应急结合, 科研和救治防控结合...”

<sup>1294</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “完善疫情防控预警预测机制, 及时有效捕获信息, 及时采取应对举措。”

<sup>1295</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “要完善关键核心技术攻关的新型举国体制, 加快推进人口健康, 生物安全等领域科研力量布局, 整合生命科学, 生物技术, 医药卫生, 医疗设备等领域的国家重点科研体系... 加强生命科学领域的基础研究和医疗健康关键核心技术突破... 要加快补齐我国高端医疗装备短板, 加快关键核心技术攻关, 突破这些技术装备瓶颈, 实现高端医疗装备自主可控。”

<sup>1296</sup> The Chinese name of the State Council directive is “关于规范新冠肺炎科研攻关成果信息发布管理的通知.” The Associated Press was the first to obtain and report on it. Dake Kang, Maria Cheng, and Sam McNeil, “China Clamps Down in Hidden Hunt for Coronavirus Origins,” *The Associated Press*, 30 December 2020.

<sup>1297</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1298</sup> Lin Tingyao (林庭瑤) and Ni Huairan (倪懷仁), "Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic" (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020.

<sup>1299</sup> Dake Kang, Maria Cheng, and Sam McNeil, "China Clamps Down in Hidden Hunt for Coronavirus Origins," *The Associated Press*, 30 December 2020.

<sup>1300</sup> The quoted text is "把新冠肺炎治疗药物, 疫苗, 病毒溯源, 病毒传播途径, 检测试剂等各类疫情防控科研成果信息的发布工作, 纳入国务院应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情联防联控机制科研攻关组 (以下简称科研攻关组) 的统一部署。科研攻关组统筹协调科研应急攻关成果信息发布, 指导, 协调各地各单位科研成果信息发布。" See, Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council's Scientific Research Group for the Offensive Campaign Against the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic (国务院应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情联防联控机制科研攻关组), "Notice on the Standardization of the Management of the Release of Findings and Information from the Scientific Research Offensive Campaign Against the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia" (关于规范新冠肺炎科研攻关成果信息发布管理的通知), released on 03 March 2020, published online by *The Associated Press* on 30 December 2020. Please note that our English translation differs somewhat from that posted by AP as it took a more literal approach.

<sup>1301</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "各高等院校, 研究机构, 医疗机构, 企业及其人员在疫情防控期间, 未经审批不得擅自发布疫情防控相关科研成果信息。"

<sup>1302</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "原则上, 新冠肺炎科研成果信息首发采用官方权威发布形式。舆论转班加强与宣传组沟通, 结合舆情动态和社会关切, 强化对科研成果信息发布的指导。"

<sup>1303</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "对未按规定程序报批, 发布未经证实的虚假科研成果信息, 造成严重不良社会影响的, 要追究责任。" It is worth noting that the final phrase "will be held accountable" (要追究责任) is usually expressed as "will be held accountable in accordance with the law" (依法追究责任的). The omission of that qualifier (依法) intensifies the ominous tone of its warning to its recipients.

<sup>1304</sup> Gordon Watts, "China's X-Files and the Virus Blame Game," *Asia Times*, 09 March 2020.

<sup>1305</sup> Ben Westcott and Steven Jiang, "Chinese Diplomat Promotes Conspiracy Theory that US Military Brought Coronavirus to Wuhan," *CNN*, 13 March 2020.

<sup>1306</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 34; Stephen McDonnell, "Ren Zhiqiang: Outspoken Ex-Real Estate Tycoon Gets 18 Years Jail," *BBC News*, 22 September 2020.

<sup>1307</sup> Tse and Ong, pg. 34.

<sup>1308</sup> "China Internet: Ren Zhiqiang's Account Blocked After Xi Criticism," *BBC News*, 28 February 2016.

<sup>1309</sup> Jun Mai, "'It's All Fake!' Angry Residents Shout at Chinese Vice-Premier in Coronavirus-Hit Wuhan," *South China Morning Post*, 06 March 2020; "Residents Shout from Above 'It's All Fake' as Sun Chunlan Inspects Residential Building, Beijing Source Says Xi to Visit Wuhan, Predicts First Stop at Jinyintan" (孫春蘭視察住戶樓上喊造假, 京消息人士: 習擬訪武漢, 料先赴金銀潭), *Ming Pao* (明報), 06 March 2020.

<sup>1310</sup> Lily Kuo, "'Fake, Fake': Senior Chinese Leader Heckled by Residents on Visit to Coronavirus City," *The Guardian*, 06 March 2020.

<sup>1311</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 19.

<sup>1312</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1313</sup> Gary R. Whittaker, "SARS-CoV-2 Spike and its Adaptable Furin Cleavage Site," *The Lancet*, Volume 2, Issue 10, e488-e489, 01 October 2021, published online on 06 August 2021; Wei Li, "Delving Deep into the Structural Aspects of a Furin Cleavage Site Inserted into the Spike Protein of SARS-CoV-2: A Structural Biophysical Perspective," *Journal of Biophysical Chemistry*, 2020 September, 264:106420, published online 29 June 2020.

<sup>1314</sup> "Xi Jinping Inspects Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic Control and Prevention Work in Hubei Province" (习近平在湖北省考察新冠肺炎疫情防控工作), *Xinhua News Agency*, 10 March 2020; "Xi Jinping Visits Wuhan: Epidemic Control Achieves Important Interim Results" (習近平訪武漢: 疫情防控取得階段性重要成果), *Ming Pao*, 10 March 2020.

<sup>1315</sup> Steven Lee Myers, "Xi Goes to Wuhan, Coronavirus Epicenter, in Show of Confidence," *The New York Times*, 10 March 2020.

<sup>1316</sup> The relevant text is “北京消息人士對本報稱，習近平擬於近期前往湖北武漢視察新冠疫情防控工作。” See, “Residents Shout from Above ‘It’s All Fake’ as Sun Chunlan Inspects Residential Building, Beijing Source Says Xi to Visit Wuhan, Predicts First Stop at Jinyintan” (孫春蘭視察住戶樓上喊造假，京消息人士：習擬訪武漢，料先赴金銀潭), *Ming Pao*, 06 March 2020. Another piece in *Ming Pao* four days later mentioned the earlier report about Xi going to the WIV. “Xi Jinping Visits Wuhan: Epidemic Control Achieves Important Interim Results” (習近平訪武漢：疫情防控取得階段性重要成果), *Ming Pao*, 10 March 2020.

<sup>1317</sup> “President Xi Declares 7th Military World Games Open,” *Xinhua*, 19 October 2019.

<sup>1318</sup> Conversation with Wei Jingsheng and Senator Rubio’s staff, December 16, 2021.

<sup>1319</sup> Lily Kuo, “Coronavirus: Wuhan Doctor Speaks Out Against Authorities,” *The Guardian*, 11 March 2020; Josh Rudolph, “Netizen Creativity Preserves Censored Interview with Wuhan Doctor,” *China Digital Times*, 11 March 2020.

<sup>1320</sup> Ibid. The archived version can be found here: <https://archive.ph/OLdHs#selection-871.108-890.0>

<sup>1321</sup> Josh Rudolph, “Netizen Creativity Preserves Censored Interview with Wuhan Doctor,” *China Digital Times*, 11 March 2020.

<sup>1322</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “早知道有今天，我管他批评不批评，『老子』到处说，是不是？” The archived version can be found here: <https://archive.ph/OLdHs#selection-871.108-890.0>

<sup>1323</sup> Anna Fifield, “‘Wolf Warrior’ Strives to Make China First with Coronavirus Vaccine,” *The Washington Post*, 22 March 2020; “Chen Wei, military medical scientist marching toward vaccine,” *Xinhuanet*, 09 September 2020.

<sup>1324</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 18.

<sup>1325</sup> Ibid. The original photo can be seen in the following report: PRC Department of Veteran Affairs, “Bombshell! The Military Successfully Develops Recombinant Vaccine for New Coronavirus” (重磅！军队成功研制重组新冠疫苗), *Fujian Provincial Department of Veteran Affairs* (Online), 18 March 2020.

<sup>1326</sup> The January 26 claim can be found in both a *Xinhua* English report and PLA Daily report produced roughly eight months later. “No Option But Victory: A Record of the Academy of Military Sciences Military Medicine Expert Group,” (除了胜利，别无选择——记军事科学院军事医学专家组), *People’s Liberation Army Daily*, 24 September 2020. “Chen Wei, Military Medical Scientists Marching Toward Vaccine,” *Xinhuanet*, 09 September 2020. For the later dates, see Minnie Chan and William Zheng, “Meet the Major General on China’s Coronavirus Scientific Front Line,” *The South China Morning Post*, 03 March 2020; Anna Fifield, “‘Wolf Warrior’ Strives to Make China First with Coronavirus Vaccine,” *The Washington Post*, 22 March 2020.

<sup>1327</sup> “Zhong Nanshan: Origin of COVID-19 Unproven yet,” *XinhuaNet*, 19 March 2020.

<sup>1328</sup> “China Focus: Confident Novel Coronavirus Outbreak under Control by Late April: Health Expert,” *XinhuaNet*, 27 February 2020.

<sup>1329</sup> Sylvia Poggioli, “‘Every Single Individual Must Stay Home’: Italy’s Coronavirus Surge Strains Hospitals,” *National Public Radio*, 19 March 2020.

<sup>1330</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 21.

<sup>1331</sup> John Xie, “In China, Officials Exclude Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carriers From Data,” *Voice of America*, 28 March 2020.

<sup>1332</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1333</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1334</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, “Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point,” *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 11.

<sup>1335</sup> Katherine Eban, “The Lab Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19’s Origins,” *Vanity Fair*, 03 June 2021.

<sup>1336</sup> “Competitive Bid on Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology Central Air Conditioning Renovation Project” (中国科学院武汉病毒研究所中央空调改造工程竞争性磋商), *Chinese Government Procurement Network* (中国政府采购网), 16 September 2019. Thanks to the DRASTIC Research Group for locating this document and archiving it. <https://archive.ph/bfoTD>

<sup>1337</sup> Ai Hongxia (艾红霞), “Testing Begins for Special Passage through Airport for Military World Games” (军运会航空口岸专用通道开通测试), *Hebei Daily* reprinted by *Xinhua*, 26 September 2019.



<sup>1338</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 12.

<sup>1339</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1340</sup> "The Happiness and Glory to be Shared on the Historical Course to the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Race: All Walks of Life Discuss Passionately Chairman Xi Jinping's Important Speech at the First Session of the 13th National People's Congress," (在实现中华民族伟大复兴的历史进程中共享幸福和荣光 --- 社会各界热议习近平主席在十三届全国人大一次会议上的重要讲话), *Xinhua* News Agency as reposted on the *PLA Daily*, 22 March 2018.

<sup>1341</sup> Don Tse and Larry Ong, "Coronavirus Pushes CCP Factional Struggle to Inflection Point," *SinoInsider*, April 2020, pg. 12.

<sup>1342</sup> Ibid, pg. 35; Frank Chen, "As Virus Recedes in China, Anti-Xi Revolt is Spreading," *Asia Times*, 23 March 2020.

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<sup>1344</sup> Nectar Gan, "Wuhan Lockdown Lifted as City Reemerges from Coronavirus Crisis," *CNN*, 08 April 2020.

<sup>1345</sup> Andrew Mach, "Wuhan's Wet Markets are Reopening. Some Never Closed," *Bloomberg*, 10 April 2020. For a subtitled interview with a local vendor, see the following *Bloomberg* broadcast report:

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<sup>1346</sup> Mathan C., "Chinese Markets Selling Bats and Other Exotic Wild Animals Reopen amid Coronavirus Pandemic," *International Business Times*, 13 March 2020.

<sup>1347</sup> "China's Legislature Adopts Decision on Banning Illegal Trade, Consumption of Wildlife," *Xinhua* reprinted on the *State Council of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 25 February 2020.

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<sup>1350</sup> Guo Rui, "Two Chinese Activists Sentenced to 15 Months' Jail for Archiving Censored Internet Material," *The South China Morning Post*, 13 August 2021.

<sup>1351</sup> "Ministry of Public Security Party Committee Member and Vice Minister Sun Lijun is Placed Under Investigation by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection" (公安部党委委员、副部长孙力军接受中央纪委国家监委审查调查), *CCP Central Commission for Discipline Inspection* (Online), 19 April 2020.

<sup>1352</sup> The quoted text is "孙力军等对党不忠诚不老实的两面人." See, "Fighting Corruption is a Political Struggle that We Absolutely Cannot Lose" (反腐败是一场输不起也决不能输的政治斗争), *CCP Central Commission for Discipline Inspection* (Online), 24 January 2021.

<sup>1353</sup> Joyce Huang, "China's Vice Minister of Public Security Arrested in Corruption Probe," *Voice of America*, 20 April 2020.

<sup>1354</sup> "Former Vice Minister, Member of the Ministry of Public Security Party Committee Sun Lijun is Expelled from the Party and Public Office for Severely Violating the Law and [Political] Discipline" (公安部原党委委员、副部长孙力军严重违纪违法被开除党籍和公职), *Xinhua News Agency*, 30 September 2020.

<sup>1355</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "为实现个人政治目的, 不择手段, 操弄权术, 在党内大搞团团伙伙, 拉帮结派, 培植个人势力, 形成利益集团, 成伙作势控制要害部门, 严重破坏党的团结统一, 严重危害政治安全."

<sup>1356</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "在抗击新冠肺炎疫情一线擅离职守, 私藏私放大量涉密材料."

<sup>1357</sup> Joyce Huang, "China's Vice Minister of Public Security Arrested in Corruption Probe," *Voice of America*, 20 April 2020.

<sup>1358</sup> Jessie Turland, "China's Top Disciplinary Body Moves Against Ex-Security Officials Fu Zhenghua, Sun Lijun," *The Diplomat*, 06 October 2021.

<sup>1359</sup> "China Sacks Security Vice-Minister Li Dongsheng," *BBC News*, 24 February 2014; "Former China Deputy Security Chief Li Dongsheng Jailed," *BBC News*, 12 January 2016.

<sup>1360</sup> "China Arrests Ex-Security Chief Zhou Yongkang," *BBC News*, 06 December 2014.

<sup>1361</sup> "Interpol Chief Meng Hongwei Vanishes on Trip to China," *BBC News*, 05 October 2018; Colin Dwyer, "Meng Hongwei, Ex-President of Interpol, Sentenced to Prison in China for Bribery," *National Public Radio*, 21 January 2020.

<sup>1362</sup> "Former Chinese Deputy Police Minister Sentenced for Graft," *The Associated Press*, 23 September 2022.

<sup>1363</sup> Shi-Hui Sun, et. al., "A Mouse Model of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Pathogenesis," *Cell Host Microbe*, 2020 July 8; 28(1):124-133.e4, epub 27 May 2020, originally received on 14 April 2020.

<sup>1364</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1365</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1366</sup> Hongjing Gu, et. al., "Adaptation of SARS-CoV-2 in BALB/c Mice for Testing Vaccine Efficacy," *Science*, 369, 1603–1607 (2020), published online on 30 July 2020, published in print on 25 September 2020, originally received on 29 April 2020.

<sup>1367</sup> Yet another of the 32, Jiang Shibo of Fudan University, does not formally work for the PLA, but received his masters and doctoral degrees from the PLA and continues to publish largely with AMMS colleagues.

<sup>1368</sup> They were Zhou Yusen (周育森), Zhao Guangyu (赵光宇), Gu Hongjing (谷宏婧), Sun Shihui (孙世惠), He Lei (何雷), Li Yan (黎燕), Han Gencheng (韩根成), Geng Shusheng (耿树生), and Sheng Xiaoli (盛晓丽). See, Hongjing Gu, et. al., "Adaptation of SARS-CoV-2 in BALB/c Mice for Testing Vaccine Efficacy," *Science*, 369, 1603–1607 (2020), published online on 30 July 2020, published in print on 25 September 2020, originally received on 29 April 2020; and Zhou Yusen (周育森), Zhao Guangyu (赵光宇), Gu Hongjing (谷宏婧), Sun Shihui (孙世惠), He Lei (何雷), Li Yan (黎燕), Han Gencheng (韩根成), Lang Xiaolin (朗小玲), Liu Jie (刘杰), Geng Shusheng (耿树生), and Sheng Xiaoli (盛晓丽), "Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine, Methods of Preparation and its Applications," (新型冠状病毒 COVID-19 疫苗, 制备方法及其应用), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 24 February 2020, patent authorization date 26 June 2020, Patent Authorization Number: CN 111333704 A.

<sup>1369</sup> Nikolai Petrovsky, et. al., "In Silico Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein-ACE2 Binding Affinities Across Species and Implications for Virus Origin," *Scientific Reports*, 11, Article number: 13063 (2021), published on 24 June 2021, pre-print first published on 13 May 2020.

<sup>1370</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 3.

<sup>1371</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 7.

<sup>1372</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 6-7.

<sup>1373</sup> "China Reports No New Confirmed Coronavirus Cases for the First Time," *CBS News*, 23 May 2020.

<sup>1374</sup> "Director of Wuhan Institute of Virology Wang Yanyi Responds to Conspiracy Theory About the Source of the Virus" (武汉病毒研究所所长王延轶回应病毒起源阴谋论), *CCTV*, 24 May 2020.

<sup>1375</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "这次疫情发生以来, 外界一直有一种声音和说法."

<sup>1376</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "这种说法完全是无中生有. 武汉病毒所最早是在去年 12 月 30 日第一次接触到, 当时还是叫 '不明原因肺炎' 的临床样本. 后来经过病原检测, 我们才发现这些样本里面其实含有一种以前完全未知的一个全新的冠状病毒, 也就是现在说的新冠病毒. 在这之前我们是完全没有接触过, 研究过或者保存过这种病毒. 实际上我们也和大家一样, 都不知道这种病毒的存在. 都没有的东西, 怎么去泄漏它呢?"

<sup>1377</sup> The Editorial Board, "We're still missing the origin story of this pandemic. China is sitting on the answers," *Washington Post*, 05 February 2021. DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021, p. 2-3, 5-6.

<sup>1378</sup> The relevant text is "武汉病毒所的一些研究团队, 比方说石正丽老师的团队, 他们从 2004 年就开始从事蝙蝠 (SARS 样) 冠状病毒的相关研究, 但是他们的研究都是围绕着 SARS 溯源这么一个主题所开展的. 这么多年来, 石老师他们确实分离获得过一些蝙蝠的冠状病毒, 目前一共有三株. 但这三株病毒和 SARS 的相似性最高的有 96%, 但和新冠病毒的相似性最高的都不超过 79.8%." See, "Director of Wuhan Institute of Virology Wang Yanyi Responds to Conspiracy Theory About the Source of the Virus" (武汉病毒研究所所长王延轶回应病毒起源阴谋论), *CCTV*, 24 May 2020.

<sup>1379</sup> The Editorial Board, "We're still missing the origin story of this pandemic. China is sitting on the answers," *Washington Post*, 05 February 2021. DRASTIC Research Group, "An Investigation into the WIV Databases that were Taken Offline," *Research Gate*, February 2021.

<sup>1380</sup> Eva Dou, "Wuhan Lab's Classified Work Complicates Search for Pandemic's Origins," *The Washington Post*, 22 June 2021. Ryan Clarke and Lam Peng Er, "Coronavirus Research in China: Origins, International Networks, and Consequences," Non-Traditional Security (NTS)-Asia Consortium, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, 20 May 2021, p. 14.

<sup>1381</sup> James T. Areddy, "China Rules Out Animal Market and Lab as Coronavirus Origin," *The Wall Street Journal*, 26 May 2020; Aristos Georgiou, "Wuhan Seafood Market was a 'Victim' of Coronavirus, Says Director of China's CDC," *Newsweek*, 27 May 2020.

<sup>1382</sup> Aristos Georgiou, 27 May 2020.

<sup>1383</sup> Sanjay Gupta, "Autopsy of a Pandemic: 6 Doctors at the Center of the US Covid-19 Response," *CNN*, 26 March 2021.

<sup>1384</sup> George Fu Gao, et. al., "Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in the Environment and Animal Samples of the Huanan Seafood Market," *Research Square*, pre-print, 25 February 2022, pg. 1-9.

<sup>1385</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 5-6.

<sup>1386</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 2.

<sup>1387</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 8.

<sup>1388</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 3.

<sup>1389</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021, pg. 370.

<sup>1390</sup> Fang Li, et. al., "Molecular Mechanism for Antibody-Dependent Enhancement of Coronavirus Entry," *Journal of Virology*, 2020 March; 94(5): e02015-19, published online 14 February 2020, submitted on 27 November 2019.

<sup>1391</sup> Sharri Markson, *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, Sydney, Australia: HarperCollins Publishers, September 2021, pg. 370.

<sup>1392</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 369-370.

<sup>1393</sup> See, huixin.D, "Science: Still on the Frontlines of Research and Development Even at the Final Moment of Life! Zhou Yusen and Other Develop Novel Coronavirus Mouse Model" (Science: 生命最后一刻仍奋战在科研一线! 周育森等人开发出新冠小鼠模型), *MedSci*, 31 July 2020.

<sup>1394</sup> *Ibid*; and Hongjing Gu, et. al., "Adaptation of SARS-CoV-2 in BALB/c Mice for Testing Vaccine Efficacy," *Science*, 369, 1603-1607 (2020), published online on 30 July 2020, published in print on 25 September 2020.

<sup>1395</sup> Shihui Sun, Lei He, Zhongpeng Zhao, et al., "Recombinant vaccine containing an RBD-Fc fusion induced protection against SARS-CoV-2 in nonhuman primates and mice," *Cellular & Molecular Immunology*, 18, 1070-1073 (2021), published online on 17 March 2021, published in print in April 2021.

<sup>1396</sup> The remaining WIV reference can be found in "Scientists Make Major Breakthrough in a Design Element of Vaccine for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome" (科学家在中东呼吸综合征冠状病毒疫苗设计方面取得重大突破), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 25 November 2016.

<sup>1397</sup> Hongjing Gu, et. al., "Adaptation of SARS-CoV-2 in BALB/c Mice for Testing Vaccine Efficacy," *Science*, 369, 1603-1607 (2020), published online on 30 July 2020, published in print on 25 September 2020, originally received on 29 April 2020.

<sup>1398</sup> Amy Dockser Marcus, Betsy McKay, and Drew Hinshaw, "Chinese Covid-19 Gene Data That Could Have Aided Pandemic Research Removed From NIH Database," *The Wall Street Journal*, 23 June 2021.

<sup>1399</sup> Jesse D. Bloom, "Recovery of Deleted Deep Sequencing Data Sheds More Light on the Early Wuhan SARS-CoV-2 Epidemic," *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 09 December 2021; 38(12):5211-5224, pre-print published on 18 June 2021.

<sup>1400</sup> *Ibid*. Emphasis added.

<sup>1401</sup> The Chinese name of the State Council directive is "关于规范新冠肺炎科研攻关成果信息发布管理的通知." The Associated Press was the first to obtain and report on it. Dake Kang, Maria Cheng, and Sam McNeil, "China Clamps Down in Hidden Hunt for Coronavirus Origins," *The Associated Press*, 30 December 2020.

<sup>1402</sup> Emphasis added. Jesse D. Bloom, "Recovery of Deleted Deep Sequencing Data Sheds More Light on the Early Wuhan SARS-CoV-2 Epidemic," *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 09 December 2021; 38(12):5211-5224, pre-print published on 18 June 2021.

<sup>1403</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>1404</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>1405</sup> Lin Tingyao (林庭瑶) and Ni Huai ren (倪懷仁), "Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic" (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020.

<sup>1406</sup> Jesse D. Bloom, "Recovery of Deleted Deep Sequencing Data Sheds More Light on the Early Wuhan SARS-CoV-2 Epidemic," *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 09 December 2021; 38(12):5211-5224, pre-print published on 18 June 2021.



<sup>1407</sup> “Xi Jinping: Build a Strong Public Health System to Provide Powerful Protection for the People's Health” (习近平: 构建起强大的公共卫生体系 为维护人民健康提供有力保障), *Seeking Truth* (求是) reprinted by *Xinhua News Agency*, 15 September 2020.

<sup>1408</sup> For discussions of Xi's triumphalism, see Ruairidh Brown, “China: Victory Over Coronavirus will be Heralded as Boost for Xi Jinping's Brand of Marxism,” *The Conversation*, 27 May 2020; and Barbara Demick, “China's Communist Party Declares Victory Over Both the Coronavirus and Critics of the Communist Party at the Biggest Political Event of the Year,” *The New Yorker*, 22 May 2020. For earlier examples of Xi calling it a “people's war,” see Xi Jinping (习近平), “Xi Jinping: Remarks to the Central Committee's Politburo Standing Committee Meeting on Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic” (习近平: 在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情防控工作时的讲话) *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 February 2020; and “Xi Focus: Xi Vows to Win People's War Against Novel Coronavirus,” *Xinhuanet*, 11 February 2020.

<sup>1409</sup> The quoted text is “2018年1月, 我在学习贯彻党的十九大精神专题研讨班开班式上列举了8个方面16个风险, 其中特别讲到‘像非典那样的重大传染性疾病, 也要时刻保持警惕, 严密防范’。” See, “Xi Jinping: Build a Strong Public Health System to Provide Powerful Protection for the People's Health” (习近平: 构建起强大的公共卫生体系 为维护人民健康提供有力保障), *Seeking Truth* (求是) reprinted by *Xinhua News Agency*, 15 September 2020.

<sup>1410</sup> “Xi Jinping Gives Important Speech to Launch Study Session on Implementing the Spirit of the 18th Party Congress” (习近平在学习贯彻党的十九大精神研讨班开班式上发表重要讲话), *Xinhua News Agency* as reposted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 05 January 2018.

<sup>1411</sup> The quoted text is “疫情发生后, 我多次提出, 要在做好疫情防控工作的同时, 放眼长远, 总结经验, 吸取教训, 针对疫情防控中暴露出来的问题和不足, 抓紧补短板, 堵漏洞, 强弱项。” See, “Xi Jinping: Build a Strong Public Health System to Provide Powerful Protection for the People's Health” (习近平: 构建起强大的公共卫生体系 为维护人民健康提供有力保障), *Seeking Truth* (求是) reprinted by *Xinhua News Agency*, 15 September 2020.

<sup>1412</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “生命安全和生物安全领域的重大科技成果是国之重器, 一定要掌握在自己手中。要加大卫生健康领域科技投入, 加快完善平战结合的疫病防控和公共卫生科研攻关体系, 集中力量开展核心技术攻关, 持续加大重大疫病防治经费投入, 加快补齐我国在生命科学, 生物技术, 医药卫生, 医疗设备等领域的短板。当前, 我们一定要发挥新型举国体制的优势, 力争率先研发成功新冠肺炎疫苗, 争取战略主动。要深化科研人才发展体制机制改革, 完善战略科学家和创新型科技人才培养, 激励机制, 吸引更多优秀人才进入科研队伍, 为他们脱颖而出创造条件。”

<sup>1413</sup> Ben Westcott and Nectar Gan, “Chinese Academic who Criticized Leader Xi Jinping Allegedly Fired from Top University,” *CNN*, 14 July 2020; Chun Han Wong, “Chinese Law Professor Who Criticized Xi Jinping to Fight Charge and Dismissal,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 29 July 2020.

<sup>1414</sup> Chun Han Wong, “Chinese Law Professor Who Criticized Xi Jinping to Fight Charge and Dismissal,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 29 July 2020.

<sup>1415</sup> Echo Xie and Su Xinqi, “Tsinghua University Suspends Xu Zhangrun, Chinese Law Professor who Criticized Xi Jinping,” *The South China Morning Post*, 27 March 2019; and Geremie R. Barmé, “Justified Fears, Diminished Hopes, Unflagging Faith: Revisiting Xu Zhangrun's July 2018 Jeremiad,” *China Heritage*, 08 August 2021. For more on Xu's work, see Matt Seaton, “The Refusal of One Decent Man,” *The New York Review of Books*, 21 August 2021.

<sup>1416</sup> Xu Zhangrun (許章潤), “Viral Alert: When Fury Overcomes Fear,” translated and annotated by Geremie R. Barmé, *ChinaFile*, 10 February 2020.

<sup>1417</sup> “Circular of the General Office of the National Health Commission on Further Strengthening Laboratory Biosafety Supervision and Management in the Normalization of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic Prevention and Control Efforts” (国家卫生健康委办公厅关于在新冠肺炎疫情常态化防控中进一步加强实验室生物安全监督管理的通知), the *National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China* (Online), NHC Document No. 524 [2020], issued on 06 July 2020, published on 13 July 2020.

<sup>1418</sup> Ruairidh Brown, “China: Victory Over Coronavirus will be Heralded as Boost for Xi Jinping's Brand of Marxism,” *The Conversation*, 27 May 2020.

<sup>1419</sup> “Circular of the General Office of the National Health Commission on Further Strengthening Laboratory Biosafety Supervision and Management in the Normalization of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic Prevention and Control Efforts” (国家卫生健康委办公厅关于在新冠肺炎疫情常态化防控中进一步加强实验室

生物安全监督管理的通知), the *National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China* (Online), NHC Document No. 524 [2020], issued on 06 July 2020, published on 13 July 2020.

<sup>1420</sup> Ibid. The paraphrased text was taken from the following passage: “各地卫生健康行政部门应当要求生物安全实验室严格按照防护要求开展相关实验活动: 新冠病毒培养, 动物感染实验应当在生物安全三级及以上实验室开展; 未经培养的感染性材料的操作应当在生物安全二级及以上实验室进行, 同时采用不低于生物安全三级实验室的个人防护...”

<sup>1421</sup> Rowan Jacobsen, “Inside the Risky Bat-Virus Engineering that Links America to Wuhan,” *MIT Technology Review*, 29 June 2021; Rowen Jacobsen, “‘We Never Created a Supervirus.’ Ralph Baric Explains Gain-of-Function Research,” *MIT Technology Review*, 26 July 2021.

<sup>1422</sup> The quoted text is “提升检测能力, 保障检测人员和周围环境安全.” See, “Circular of the General Office of the National Health Commission on Further Strengthening Laboratory Biosafety Supervision and Management in the Normalization of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic Prevention and Control Efforts” (国家卫生健康委办公厅关于在新冠肺炎疫情常态化防控中进一步加强实验室生物安全监督管理的通知), the *National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China* (Online), NHC Document No. 524 [2020], issued on 06 July 2020, published on 13 July 2020.

<sup>1423</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “各地卫生健康委要依法依规严格管理新冠病毒毒株和相关样本, 确保安全.”

<sup>1424</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “各省级卫生健康行政部门要加强对毒株及相关样本保存单位的监督管理, 严格防范和杜绝未经审批擅自运输的情况发生.”

<sup>1425</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1426</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “各省级卫生健康行政部门要根据疫情防控需要和实验室生物安全有关要求, 及时研判提出新冠病毒实验室检测生物样本处置意见. 对确需保存的, 应当尽快指定具备保存条件的机构按照相对集中原则进行保存, 或送至国家级菌(毒)种保藏中心保藏; 对无需保存的, 由相关机构按照生物安全有关要求及时处理.”

<sup>1427</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “请各省级卫生健康行政部门督促辖区内高等级生物安全实验室将新冠病毒毒株分离, 分享等相关情况及时报送我委科教司, 同时指导实验室在分离出新冠病毒毒株后 90 天内, 向国家级菌(毒)种保藏中心申请保藏, 完成相关实验活动后及时将新冠病毒毒株送交保藏机构保藏.”

<sup>1428</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “各省级卫生健康行政部门要切实加强组织领导, 提升实验室生物安全监管能力, 按照属地化, 分级分类的原则开展实验室生物安全监管工作, 强化新冠病毒实验活动监督检查, 指导辖区内相关机构加强生物安全管理, 严格按照《病原微生物实验室生物安全管理条例》及相关技术规范要求开展实验活动, 防止实验室泄露或人员感染, 确保实验室生物安全万无一失.”

<sup>1429</sup> Stephanie Nebehay, “WHO Advance Team Heads to China to Set Up Probe into Coronavirus Origin,” *Reuters*, 10 July 2020; Jamey Keatan, “WHO Advance Team Ends Visit to China to Probe COVID Origin,” *The Associated Press*, 04 August 2020.

<sup>1430</sup> Stephanie Nebehay, “WHO Advance Team Heads to China to Set Up Probe into Coronavirus Origin,” *Reuters*, 10 July 2020.

<sup>1431</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1432</sup> Jamey Keatan, “WHO Advance Team Ends Visit to China to Probe COVID Origin,” *The Associated Press*, 04 August 2020.

<sup>1433</sup> Jeremy Page, Betsy McKay, and Drew Hinshaw, “How the WHO’s Hunt for Covid’s Origins Stumbled in China,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 17 March 2021.

<sup>1434</sup> Stephen McDonnell, “Ren Zhiqiang: Outspoken Ex-Real Estate Tycoon Gets 18 Years Jail,” *BBC News*, 22 September 2020.

<sup>1435</sup> Chun Han Wong, “China Sentences Xi Critic Ren Zhiqiang to 18 Years in Prison,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 22 September 2020.

<sup>1436</sup> “Former Property Tycoon Ren Zhiqiang Expelled from Party for Serious Disciplinary Violations,” *The Global Times*, 24 July 2020.

<sup>1437</sup> Wu Jia (吴佳), Yuan Zhiming (袁志明), Tang Hao (唐浩), Liu Jun (刘军), Qin Hao (秦颢), Liu Yi (刘毅), and Wang Lin (王林), “A Disinfectant Solution for Surfaces in High-Level Biosafety Laboratories and Related Preparation Methods,” (一种用于高等级生物安全实验室的物表消毒液及其制备方法), *National Intellectual Property*

*Administration of China* (Online), application date 13 November 2020, patent authorization date 09 November 2021, Patent Authorization Number: CN 112262846 B.

<sup>1438</sup> *Ibid.* Its effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2 is mentioned several times in the patent text. Here is one example: “本发明提供了一种高等级生物安全实验室物表消毒液及其制备方法。具备以下有益效果:该消毒液对埃博拉病毒, SARS 冠状病毒, 2019 新型冠状病毒, 艾滋病毒, 基孔肯尼亚 病毒等高致病性病原微生物具有显著杀灭效果。” For an example of its non-corrosiveness toward stainless steel, here is an example: “而且通过在该消毒液中加入纳米镁以显著降低消毒液对金属尤其是对不锈钢的腐蚀作用, 从而避免高等级生物安全实验室生物安全防护设施设备的金属构件被腐蚀后发生高致病性病原微生物泄漏引起生物安全事故。”

<sup>1439</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is “...高等级生物 安全实验室的建设与其他实验室存在显著差别, 实验室建设既需要有各种生物安全防护设 施设备防止病原微生物逃逸, 又要使用消毒剂对高致病性病原微生物进行杀灭。由于生物 安全防护设施设备包括围护结构, 气密门, 化学淋浴, 双扉灭菌器, 活废水处理系统, 高效 空气过滤器, 实验室通风系统等大量使用不锈钢等金属材料, 并利用焊接工艺连接成型, 并且在使用消毒剂时需要将消毒剂喷洒到上述设施设备表面, 因此高等级生物安全实验室 在选择消毒剂时, 既要确保消毒剂对高致病性病原微生物具有杀灭作用, 同时还要对不锈 钢等金属构件没有腐蚀作用或者腐蚀作用很小。”

<sup>1440</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “但在现有消毒剂中, 对不锈钢等金属腐蚀性低的消毒剂消毒效果差, 因不能完全杀灭高致病性病原微生物而不能在高等级生物安全实验室使用, 而对高致病性病原微生物具有杀灭作用的消毒剂对不锈钢等金属均有不同程度的腐蚀作用, 长期使用会导致不锈钢等金属构件发生锈蚀, 从而降低上述设施设备的生物安全防护作用, 不仅缩短其使用寿命造成经济损失, 甚至导致高致病性病原微生物逃逸 到实验室外部环境中, 进而造成人民生命财产损失并带来严重的社会问题。因此, 研发一种 既能够有效杀灭高致病性病原微生物, 又对不锈钢等金属没有腐蚀性或者腐蚀性很低的消 毒剂十分必要...”

<sup>1441</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “而且通过在该消毒液中加入纳米镁以显著降低消毒液对金属尤其是对不锈钢的腐蚀作用, 从而避免高等级生物安全实验室生物安全防护设施设备的金属构件被腐蚀后发生高致病性病原微生物泄漏引起生物安全事故。”

<sup>1442</sup> “Keep Firmly in Mind Your Responsibilities, Hold Fast to the Mission, Be a Pioneer for our Nation in the Realm of High-Level Biosafety – The Achievements of the Zhengdian Lab Party Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Institute of Virology (牢记责任, 坚守使命 做我国高等级生物安全领域的开拓者——中科院武汉病毒所郑店实验室党支部事迹), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 November 2019.

<sup>1443</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “例如, 实验室核心区域的围护结构, 实验室团队通过反复测试, 用先进的激光焊接方式替代了传统的胶密封方式, 具有更好的气密性和耐久的效果, P4 团队拥有该技术的自主知识产权; 自主设计自动控制的数学模型, 达到更稳定的压差控制效果等。”

<sup>1444</sup> Gilles Demaneuf, “Wuhan BSL-4: Engineering Review,” *Medium.com*, 28 May 2021. The research was conducted by the DRASTIC Research Collective.

<sup>1445</sup> Zheng-li Shi, et al., “A Pneumonia Outbreak Associated with a New Coronavirus of Probable Bat Origin,” *Nature*, Volume 579, pages 270–273 (2020), received 20 January 2020, accepted 29 January 2020, originally published online on 03 February 2020 with addendum on 17 November 2020.

<sup>1446</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Virai: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 33.

<sup>1447</sup> “Seven Year Coronavirus Trail From Bat Cave via Wuhan Lab,” *The Sunday Times*, 04 July 2020.

<sup>1448</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Virai: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 34.

<sup>1449</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1450</sup> Zheng-li Shi, et al., “A Pneumonia Outbreak Associated with a New Coronavirus of Probable Bat Origin,” *Nature*, Volume 579, pages 270–273 (2020), received 20 January 2020, accepted 29 January 2020, originally published online on 03 February 2020 with addendum on 17 November 2020.

<sup>1451</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1452</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1453</sup> Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, *Virai: The Search for the Origin of COVID-19*, (Harper Collins Publishers: New York, November 2021), pg. 23, 34.

<sup>1454</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 23.

<sup>1455</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 34.



<sup>1456</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2020 Annual Training Class for Biosafety Laboratory Management and Experimental Techniques” (武汉病毒所举办 2020 年生物安全实验室管理与实验技术培训班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 November 2020.

<sup>1457</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2019 Training Class on Biosafety Laboratory Management and Techniques for Conducting Experiments” (武汉病毒所举办 2019 年生物安全实验室管理与实验技术培训班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 28 November 2019.

<sup>1458</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Holds 2020 Annual Training Class for Biosafety Laboratory Management and Experimental Techniques” (武汉病毒所举办 2020 年生物安全实验室管理与实验技术培训班), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 30 November 2020.

<sup>1459</sup> *Ibid.* The NPC official was Cao Yang, the deputy director of the Administrative Law Office of the Legal Work Subcommittee of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee (全国人大常委会法工委行政法室副处长曹阳).

<sup>1460</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Launches Training on Safety Work” (武汉病毒所开展安全工作培训), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 21 November 2019.

<sup>1461</sup> “Wuhan Municipal People’s Government Circular on the Publication of the Wuhan Municipal Overall Emergency Response Contingency Plans for Sudden Incidents” (市人民政府关于印发武汉市突发事件总体应急预案的通知), first issued on 07 January 2021, published in the *Official Bulletin of the Wuhan Municipal People’s Government* (武汉市人民政府公报), Issue No. 2 of 2021 (Overall Issue 674), pg. 24.

<sup>1462</sup> Jeremy Brown, “How the Party Handles Accidents,” *China Digital Times*, 10 August 2017; Alexander Boyd, “How Xiaohongshu Censors ‘Sudden Incidents’,” *China Digital Times*, 27 July 2022.

<sup>1463</sup> The quoted texts are “突发事件分类分级,” and “病原微生物菌毒株事件,” and “公共卫生事件.” See, “Wuhan Municipal People’s Government Circular on the Publication of the Wuhan Municipal Overall Emergency Response Contingency Plans for Sudden Incidents” (市人民政府关于印发武汉市突发事件总体应急预案的通知), first issued on 07 January 2021, published in the *Official Bulletin of the Wuhan Municipal People’s Government* (武汉市人民政府公报), Issue No. 2 of 2021 (Overall Issue 674), pg. 25.

<sup>1464</sup> *Ibid.* Emphasis added. The quoted text is “主要包括传染病疫情, 食品药品安全事件, 群体性中毒感染事件, 病原微生物菌毒株事件, 动物疫情事件, 群体性不明原因疫病, 以及其他严重影响公众健康和生命安全的事件.”

<sup>1465</sup> *Ibid.* pg. 42. The quoted text is “国家重点生物实验室生物安全事件.” On page 28, the directive also provides the following types of “sudden incidents” that the health commission is responsible for: “市卫生健康委: 传染病事件, 群体性中毒, 感染事件, 病原微生物, 菌毒株事件, 群体性不明原因疾病.”

<sup>1466</sup> For sake of comparison, the original 2013 document can be found here:

[http://www.wuhan.gov.cn/zwgk/xxgk/zfwj/bgtwj/202003/t20200316\\_974443.shtml](http://www.wuhan.gov.cn/zwgk/xxgk/zfwj/bgtwj/202003/t20200316_974443.shtml)

<sup>1467</sup> Drew Hinshaw and Jeremy Page, “WHO Mission to Look for Answers to Covid-19’s Origin in Wuhan,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 14 January 2021; Gabriel Crossley, “WHO’s Wuhan Probe Ends, U.S.-China Bickering Over COVID Continues,” *Reuters*, 10 February 2021.

<sup>1468</sup> Jeremy Page, Betsy McKay, and Drew Hinshaw, “How the WHO’s Hunt for Covid’s Origins Stumbled in China,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 17 March 2021.

<sup>1469</sup> Drew Hinshaw and Jeremy Page, “WHO Mission to Look for Answers to Covid-19’s Origin in Wuhan,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 14 January 2021.

<sup>1470</sup> Jeremy Page, Betsy McKay, and Drew Hinshaw, “How the WHO’s Hunt for Covid’s Origins Stumbled in China,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 17 March 2021.

<sup>1471</sup> Drew Hinshaw and Jeremy Page, “WHO Mission to Look for Answers to Covid-19’s Origin in Wuhan,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 14 January 2021.

<sup>1472</sup> Jamey Keatan, “WHO Advance Team Ends Visit to China to Probe COVID Origin,” *The Associated Press*, 04 August 2020.

<sup>1473</sup> Jeremy Page, Betsy McKay, and Drew Hinshaw, “How the WHO’s Hunt for Covid’s Origins Stumbled in China,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 17 March 2021.

<sup>1474</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1475</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1476</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1477</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1478</sup> See, "Guo Shengkun: Firmly Launch a Nationwide Education and Rectification of Political-Legal Forces to Bring a New Look and New Results to the Celebration of the Party's Centennial" (郭声琨：扎实开展全国政法队伍教育整顿以新面貌新业绩庆祝建党 100 周年), *China Peace Network* (中国长安网), 27 February 2021. Lest its Orwellian name confuse readers, let me clarify that the "China Peace Network" is the official website of the CCP Central Political and Legal Commission.

<sup>1479</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1480</sup> Willy Wo-Lap Lam, "As Rival Factions Gain Traction, Xi Seeks to Secure Support from the Military," *The Jamestown Foundation* (Online), 25 January 2022.

<sup>1481</sup> "Guo Shengkun: Firmly Launch a Nationwide Education and Rectification of Political-Legal Forces to Bring a New Look and New Results to the Celebration of the Party's Centennial" (郭声琨：扎实开展全国政法队伍教育整顿以新面貌新业绩庆祝建党 100 周年), *China Peace Network* (中国长安网), 27 February 2021.

<sup>1482</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "突出筑牢政治忠诚, 清除害群之马, 整治顽瘴痼疾."

<sup>1483</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "开展政法队伍教育整顿, 是坚持全面从严管党治警, 推进政法队伍自我革命的必然要求。要发扬彻底的革命精神, 针对执法司法权运行的特殊性, 紧扣扫黑除恶专项斗争暴露出来的深层次问题, 坚持全链条发力, 全系统整治, 刀刃向内, 刮骨疗毒, 坚决清除害群之马, 彻底整治顽瘴痼疾。"

<sup>1484</sup> "Xi Jinping Attends Central Political Legal Commission Work Conference and Delivers Important Speech," (习近平出席中央政法工作会议并发表重要讲话), *Xinhua News Agency*, 16 January 2019.

<sup>1485</sup> "On the Political-Legal Battlefield, the Self-Revolution of Turning the Blade Inward Yields Obvious Results" (政法战线刀刃向内的自我革命成效明显), *The Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 30 August 2021; Willy Wo-Lap Lam, "Xi Facing Opposition on Different Fronts in Run-Up to Key Party Plenum," *The Jamestown Foundation* (Online), 23 September 2021.

<sup>1486</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1487</sup> The five were the Ecological and Environmental Department, the Education Department, the Science and Technology Department, the Provincial Health Commission, and the Emergency Response Management Department. See, "Circular on Taking the Next Step to Strengthen Environmental Management Work for Laboratory Hazardous Waste," (关于进一步加强实验室危险废物环境管理工作的通知), *Hubei Provincial People's Government* (Online), 01 June 2021.

<sup>1488</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "年产生量 3 吨以上的应建设规范且满足防扬散, 防流失, 防渗漏等要求的贮存设施并落实专人管理。"

<sup>1489</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is "对涉及感染性废物的病原微生物实验室, 应按照 '实验室生物安全通用要求' (GB19489) 等标准规范要求加强对感染性废物的消毒处理和安全贮存。"

<sup>1490</sup> Tang Huashan (汤华山), Zou Jing (邹靖), and Jin Fengyin (金凤银), "A Temporary Storage Unit for Hazardous Solid Waste for Use in High Level Biosafety Laboratories," (一种高等级生物安全实验室用危险固体废物临时存放装置), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 15 October 2021, patent authorization date 11 January 2022, Patent Authorization Number: CN 113911590 A.

<sup>1491</sup> Xiao Xiao, et. al., "Animal Sales from Wuhan Wet Markets Immediately Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Scientific Reports*, 11, Article number: 11898 (2021), published online on 07 June 2021.

<sup>1492</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1493</sup> Ibid; David Engber, "The Lab Leak Theory Meets its Perfect Match," *The Atlantic*, 24 November 2021.

<sup>1494</sup> "WHO-Convended Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part," Joint WHO-China Study: 14 January to 10 February 2021, *World Health Organization* (Online), 30 March 2021, pg. 98.

<sup>1495</sup> "The WHO's Chief Says it Was Premature To Rule Out A Lab Leak As The Pandemic's Origin," *The Associated Press*, 15 July 2021.

<sup>1496</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1497</sup> See, Matthew Impelli, "Member of WHO's Wuhan Investigative Team Faults U.S. Intel on COVID," *Newsweek*, 10 February 2021; Jimmy Quinn, "The Growing Scrutiny of Peter Daszak's Chinese Research Collaboration," *The National Review*, 25 March 2021; Jim Geraghty, "China Apologist Peter Daszak Has Some Explaining to Do," *The National Review*, 22 June 2021; Jerry Dunleavy, "Wuhan Lab Collaborator Recused from Lancet's COVID-19 Origins Investigation," *The Washington Examiner*, 22 June 2021.

<sup>1498</sup> "The WHO's Chief Says It Was Premature To Rule Out A Lab Leak As The Pandemic's Origin," *The Associated Press*, 15 July 2021.

<sup>1499</sup> The relevant text is "甚至于计划领导人在南京举行纪念活动时不轨,被安全全部人员阻止了罪恶活动."

"Mainland Media Carelessly Reveal Jiangsu Police Officials Plotted Something Bad Against Leaders," (陆媒披露江苏警官策划对领导人不轨), *Radio Free Asia*, 16 September 2021; Willy Wo-Lop Lam, "Xi Facing Opposition on Different Fronts in Run-Up to Key Party Plenum," *The Jamestown Foundation* (Online), 23 September 2021.

<sup>1500</sup> "Mainland Media Carelessly Reveal Jiangsu Police Officials Plotted Something Bad Against Leaders," (陆媒披露江苏警官策划对领导人不轨), *Radio Free Asia*, 16 September 2021.

<sup>1501</sup> Willy Wo-Lop Lam, "Xi Facing Opposition on Different Fronts in Run-Up to Key Party Plenum," *The Jamestown Foundation* (Online), 23 September 2021.

<sup>1502</sup> The quoted text is "妄议中央大政方针, 辱骂国家主要领导人." See, "Mainland Media Carelessly Reveal Jiangsu Police Officials Plotted Something Bad Against Leaders," (陆媒披露江苏警官策划对领导人不轨), *Radio Free Asia*, 16 September 2021.

<sup>1503</sup> Willy Wo-Lop Lam, "Xi Facing Opposition on Different Fronts in Run-Up to Key Party Plenum," *The Jamestown Foundation* (Online), 23 September 2021; Laura He, "China Sentences Former Top Finance Executive to Death for Bribery," *CNN*, 06 January 2021.

<sup>1504</sup> Alexander Boyd, "'Political Clique' Purged from State Security Apparatus Ahead of Party Congress," *China Digital Times*, 07 October 2022. Matthew Walsh, "Chinese Former Senior Security Official Faces Life in Prison For Bribery," *International Business Times*, 23 September 2022.

<sup>1505</sup> The quoted text is "加强我国生物安全建设进行第三十三次集体学习." See "At the Politburo's 33rd Collective Study Session, Xi Jinping Emphasizes Strengthening Prevention and Control of Biosafety/Biosecurity Risks and Building a System to Improve the Capabilities of the State to Control in Biosafety/Biosecurity" (习近平在中共中央政治局第三十三次集体学习时强调 加强国家生物安全风险防控和治理体系建设 提高国家生物安全治理能力), *China National Radio* (中央人民广播电台), 30 September 2021; Zhang Quan (张泉), "Put the Strengthening of Biosafety/Biosecurity in a Place of Greater Prominence: Our Country Continues to Raise its National Biosafety/Biosecurity Control Capabilities" (把加强生物安全建设摆上更加突出的位置——我国持续提升国家生物安全治理能力), *Xinhua News Agency*, 30 September 2021.

<sup>1506</sup> The quoted text is "要盯牢抓紧生物安全重点风险领域, 强化底线思维和风险意识." See, "At the Politburo's 33rd Collective Study Session, Xi Jinping Emphasizes Strengthening Prevention and Control of Biosafety/Biosecurity Risks and Building a System to Improve the Capabilities of the State to Control in Biosafety/Biosecurity" (习近平在中共中央政治局第三十三次集体学习时强调 加强国家生物安全风险防控和治理体系建设 提高国家生物安全治理能力), *China National Radio* (中央人民广播电台), 30 September 2021.

<sup>1507</sup> Ibid. The relevant text is "要强化生物资源安全监管, 制定完善生物资源和人类遗传资源目录."

<sup>1508</sup> For one representative example, see Tan Xueping (谭雪平) and Yang Yu (杨宇), "Genetic Warfare: A New Shadow Enveloping Humanity" (基因战争, 笼罩人类的新阴影), *The People's Liberation Army Daily*, 08 November 2018.

<sup>1509</sup> "Premier Li Keqiang Signs State Council Order announcing 'the People's Republic of China Human Hereditary Resources Management Regulations'" (李克强签署国务院令公布《中华人民共和国人类遗传资源管理条例》), *Xinhua* reprinted in the *PLA Daily*, 10 June 2019.

<sup>1510</sup> Li Li (李莉), "Zhang Jiwen: Firmly Construct an Epidemic Inspection Line of Defense at Ports of Entry and Strictly Maintain Biosecurity at the Nation's Gates" (张际文: 筑牢口岸检疫防线 严守国门生物安全), *Sohu.com*, 28 March 2019.

<sup>1511</sup> The quoted text is "要加强入境检疫, 强化潜在风险分析和违法违规行为处罚, 坚决守牢国门关口. 对已经传入并造成严重危害的, 要摸清底数." See, "At the Politburo's 33rd Collective Study Session, Xi Jinping Emphasizes Strengthening Prevention and Control of Biosafety/Biosecurity Risks and Building a System to Improve the Capabilities of the State to Control in Biosafety/Biosecurity" (习近平在中共中央政治局第三十三次集体学习时强调 加强国家生物安全风险防控和治理体系建设 提高国家生物安全治理能力), *China National Radio* (中央人民广播电台), 30 September 2021.



<sup>1512</sup> Ibid. The quoted text is “要加强对国内病原微生物实验室生物安全的管理, 严格执行有关标准规范, 严格管理实验样本, 实验动物, 实验活动废弃物。”

<sup>1513</sup> Lin Tingyao (林庭瑶) and Ni Huairan (倪懷仁), “Exclusively Obtained Red-Letterhead Document: The Chinese Communist Party Concealed Wuhan Epidemic” (獨家取得紅頭文件: 中共隱瞞武漢疫情), *The Storm Media* (瘋傳媒), 15 April 2020.

<sup>1514</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (2020 No. 15), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Health Commission, the General Administration of Customs, the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, “Circular on Strengthening Biosecurity and Biosafety Management of Animal Pathogen Molecular Biology Labs” (关于加强动物病原微生物实验室生物安全管理的通知), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), issued on 09 February 2020, posted online on 02 March 2020.

<sup>1515</sup> See, “Circular on Taking the Next Step to Strengthen Environmental Management Work for Laboratory Hazardous Waste,” (关于进一步加强实验室危险废物环境管理工作的通知), *Hubei Provincial People's Government* (Online), 01 June 2021.

<sup>1516</sup> Tang Huashan (汤华山), Zou Jing (邹靖), and Jin Fengyin (金凤银), “A Temporary Storage Unit for Hazardous Solid Waste for Use in High Level Biosafety Laboratories,” (一种高等级生物安全实验室用危险固体废物临时存放装置), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 15 October 2021, patent authorization date 11 January 2022, Patent Authorization Number: CN 113911590 A.

<sup>1517</sup> The quoted text is “要织牢织密生物安全风险监测预警网络, 健全监测预警体系, 重点加强基层监测站点建设, 提升末端发现能力. 要快速感知识别新发突发传染病... 做到早发现, 早预警, 早应对.” See, “At the Politburo's 33rd Collective Study Session, Xi Jinping Emphasizes Strengthening Prevention and Control of Biosafety/Biosecurity Risks and Building a System to Improve the Capabilities of the State to Control in Biosafety/Biosecurity” (习近平在中共中央政治局第三十三次集体学习时强调 加强国家生物安全风险防控和治理体系建设 提高国家生物安全治理能力), *China National Radio* (中央人民广播电台), 30 September 2021.

<sup>1518</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “中共中央总书记习近平在主持学习时强调, 生物安全关乎人民生命健康, 关乎国家长治久安, 关乎中华民族永续发展, 是国家总体安全的重要组成部分, 也是影响乃至重塑世界格局的重要力量. 要深刻认识新形势下加强生物安全建设的重要性和紧迫性.”

<sup>1519</sup> Ibid. Emphasis added. The quoted text is “习近平强调, 现在, 传统生物安全问题和新型生物安全风险相互叠加, 境外生物威胁和内部生物风险交织并存, 生物安全风险呈现出许多新特点, 我国生物安全风险防控和治理体系还存在短板弱项. 必须科学分析我国生物安全形势, 把握面临的风险挑战, 明确加强生物安全建设的思路和举措.”

<sup>1520</sup> Xi Jinping (习近平), “Xi Jinping: Remarks to the Central Committee's Politburo Standing Committee Meeting on Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic” (习近平: 在中央政治局常委会会议研究应对新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情工作时的讲话) *Seeking Truth* (求是), 15 February 2020; “Xi Jinping Chairs and Convenes the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Central Commission on Comprehensively Deepening Reform and Emphasizes: Improve the System and Mechanisms for Major Epidemic Prevention and Control and Strengthen the National Public Health Emergency Management System” (习近平主持召开中央全面深化改革委员会第十二次会议强调: 完善重大疫情防控体制机制 健全国家公共卫生应急管理体系), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 14 February 2020; “Xi Jinping: Speech at the Conference on Planning and Promoting Prevention and Control for the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic and Social-Economic Development Work Deployment” (习近平: 在统筹推进新冠肺炎疫情防控和经济社会发展工作部署会议上的讲话), *Xinhua News Agency* re-posted on the *Central Government of the People's Republic of China* (Online), 24 February 2020; “Xi Jinping: Build a Strong Public Health System to Provide Powerful Protection for the People's Health” (习近平: 构建起强大的公共卫生体系 为维护人民健康提供有力保障), *Seeking Truth* (求是) reprinted by *Xinhua News Agency*, 15 September 2020.

<sup>1521</sup> “Wuhan Institute of Virology Party Committee Convenes Central Group Plenary Study Session” (武汉病毒所党委召开中心组(扩大)学习会议), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 12 September 2018; “The Comprehensive Management General Party Branch of the Wuhan Institute of Virology Convenes Specialized Study Meeting on ‘Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission’” (武汉病毒所综合管理党总支召开“不忘初心, 牢记使命”专题学习会), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 20 September 2018; “Wuhan

Institute of Virology Organizes Centralized Study on the Educational Theme of 'Staying True to our Original Aspiration, Keeping Firmly in Mind our Mission'," (武汉病毒所组织“不忘初心，牢记使命”主题教育集中学习), *Wuhan Institute of Virology* (Online), 09 July 2019; "Safe Production has No 'Inspection-Exempted Work Units', Much Less 'No Worries Work Units'," (安全生产没有“免检单位”，更没有“放心单位”), *Chinese Academy of Sciences* (Online), 03 September 2019; Wang Xiaoli (王小理) and Zhou Dongsheng (周冬生), "Looking toward the International Biosecurity Situation in 2035," (面向 2035 年的国际生物安全形势), *The Study Times* (学习时报), 20 December 2019.

<sup>1522</sup> The quoted text is "习近平强调，加强生物安全建设是一项长期而艰巨的任务，需要持续用力，扎实推进。各级党委（党组）和政府要切实把握思想认识和行动统一到党中央决策部署上来，把生物安全工作责任落到实处，做到守土有责，守土尽责。" See, "At the Politburo's 33rd Collective Study Session, Xi Jinping Emphasizes Strengthening Prevention and Control of Biosafety/Biosecurity Risks and Building a System to Improve the Capabilities of the State to Control in Biosafety/Biosecurity" (习近平在中共中央政治局第三十三次集体学习时强调 加强国家生物安全风险防控和治理体系建设 提高国家生物安全治理能力), *China National Radio* (中央人民广播电台), 30 September 2021.

<sup>1523</sup> *Ibid.* The quoted text is "按科学规则推动新冠病毒溯源工作。"

<sup>1524</sup> "Former Vice Minister, Member of the Ministry of Public Security Party Committee Sun Lijun is Expelled from the Party and Public Office for Severely Violating the Law and [Political] Discipline" (公安部原党委委员，副部长孙力军严重违纪违法被开除党籍和公职), *Xinhua News Agency*, 30 September 2020; Jessie Turland, "China's Top Disciplinary Body Moves Against Ex-Security Officials Fu Zhenghua, Sun Lijun," *The Diplomat*, 06 October 2021; "Former Chinese Deputy Police Minister Sentenced for Graft," *The Associated Press*, 23 September 2022.

<sup>1525</sup> Jessie Turland, "China's Top Disciplinary Body Moves Against Ex-Security Officials Fu Zhenghua, Sun Lijun," *The Diplomat*, 06 October 2021.

<sup>1526</sup> "Former Chinese Deputy Police Minister Sentenced for Graft," *The Associated Press*, 23 September 2022.

<sup>1527</sup> Alexander Boyd, "'Political Clique' Purged from State Security Apparatus Ahead of Party Congress," *China Digital Times*, 07 October 2022; William Zheng, "In One Day, Three Former Chinese Police Chiefs are Each Jailed for More than a Decade for Corruption," *The South China Morning Post*, 21 September 2022.

<sup>1528</sup> Cindy Yu, Victor Shih, and Bill Bishop, "Succession and Power: A Look Ahead to the 20th Party Congress," *The Spectator*, 03 October 2022.

<sup>1529</sup> Jessie Turland, "China's Top Disciplinary Body Moves Against Ex-Security Officials Fu Zhenghua, Sun Lijun," *The Diplomat*, 06 October 2021.

<sup>1530</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1531</sup> Betsy McKay and Drew Hinshaw, "WHO Creates New Team to Study Covid-19 Origins," *The Wall Street Journal*, 13 October 2021.

<sup>1532</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1533</sup> Tang Huashan (汤华山), Zou Jing (邹靖), and Jin Fengyin (金凤银), "A Temporary Storage Unit for Hazardous Solid Waste for Use in High Level Biosafety Laboratories," (一种高等级生物安全实验室用危险固体废物临时存放装置), *National Intellectual Property Administration of China* (Online), application date 15 October 2021, patent authorization date 11 January 2022, Patent Authorization Number: CN 113911590 A.

<sup>1534</sup> *Ibid.* The relevant text is "解决了危险固体废物因错误放置或取出而造成病毒泄漏的问题。"

<sup>1535</sup> *Ibid.* The relevant text is "在进行危险固体废弃物的存取工作时，必须至少双人同时操作才能将架体进行翻转，而架体只有在翻转后才能将存放箱前侧所设置的仓门打开的设计，避免了因单人操作打开仓门进行存放时可能会出现危险固体废物被错误存放或渗漏的风险。"

<sup>1536</sup> *Ibid.* The relevant text is "当使用者存放或取出垃圾后，通过将手部伸入到架体中靠近风淋槽的一侧位置，并通过风淋槽喷出液体对手部进行消毒，解决了危险固体废物因错误放置或取出而造成病毒泄漏的问题。"